

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



Health and Safety Procedures

2021-2022 Academic Year

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MCS/AA 2021-2022 Academic Year

As the school reopens, the safety of students and staff remains the top priority of MCS/AA. MCS/AA continues to follow recommendations from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), and the [Maryland Department of Health](#). In accordance with CDC guidance, MCS/AA will implement a multi-layer health and safety protocol that includes multiple strategies to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 and protect our school community members. Strategies include use of masks, enhanced sanitation, improved ventilation, and processes for testing, contact tracing, and quarantine, as necessary.

Safety Practices

Health Screenings

Prior to entering the school, all MCS/AA students, staff, and visitors will be required to go through a daily health screening consisting of answering health and safety questions and a temperature check.

If a child has a fever greater than 100.4 F, school would refuse their entry. In that case, parent/guardian picks up the student. School advises parents to consult with their healthcare provider or provide information on accessible COVID testing sites. 24 hrs after fever has broken naturally (without reducing medicine) students can return to school.

Responsibility of Families

We are asking parents to prioritize the children's education and health so that all attending the school will be safe. We are encouraging parents to get vaccinated, following the CDC guidelines at school and everywhere (wear a mask, social distance, etc.), and limit your interactions outside of your household.

Face Coverings

All MCS/AA students above the age of 2, staff and visitors will be required to wear face coverings while at school, regardless of vaccination status. Approved types of masks/face coverings include: disposable masks, cloth mask coverings, gaiters, clear masks and cloth masks with clear plastic pane. Face coverings must fit properly with no large gaps around the sides of the face. Face coverings/masks will be provided for any student, staff or visitor who does not have one while in the building.

Cleaning

MCS/AA building service staff will increase cleaning and disinfecting of all high-touch areas inside our facility. Special attention is given to door handles, light switches, sink handles, and other surfaces that are touched frequently.

Hand Sanitizer and Hand Washing

Regular hand-washing will be encouraged whenever students are at school. Students should bring their own hand sanitizer to use throughout the day. In addition, hand sanitizers will be placed throughout the building.

Contact Tracing

When a student in MCS/AA tests positive for COVID-19, our administration staff will work with county and state health officials to identify those who have had direct contact and follow up with any quarantine instructions. Parents must notify school leadership if their child is exposed to COVID-19 or receives a positive test result.

Triage/Isolation Rooms

We will have a designated isolation and triage space for students who develop symptoms of COVID-19 while at school. The school administration will contact the parents or designated emergency contact to pick-up their child.

Access to COVID-19 Testing

MCS/AA is being provided with a limited number of testing kits to provide students and staff with access to COVID-19 testing. Please reach out to the office staff for additional details.

Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality

MCS/AA has taken these steps to improve ventilation and ensure the health and safety of students and staff:

1. Purchased portable air cleaners with HEPA filters for installation in all classrooms, offices, including the area that will be used as an isolation room for those experiencing symptoms while at school. These air cleaners meet the CDC's requirements for an adequate air circulation.
2. Assessed all existing systems and equipment
3. Scheduled the replacement of all HVAC filters, upgrading them to the highest Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV) efficiency possible for improved air filtration

Vaccination

MCS/AA urges all eligible students and staff members to receive the vaccination to protect against COVID-19. In addition, MCS/AA will be implementing a policy for all MCS/AA employees to be vaccinated or participate in regular COVID-19 testing.

Physical Distancing

MCS/AA has modified classroom layouts to allow 3-feet social distancing. MCS/AA will also use outdoor spaces for educational and social experiences as much as possible and provide "mask

breaks” when safe. Limited number of students will be allowed in each bathroom at a given time. Lunch will be eaten in the classrooms and class period transitions will be staggered to limit the number of students in the hallways.

Quarantine

Unvaccinated MCS/AA students and staff who have been exposed to COVID-19 must quarantine for 10 days. Students and staff who are fully vaccinated (two weeks past their last dose) are exempt from quarantine unless they develop COVID symptoms or test positive for COVID-19. Quarantine reduces COVID-19 transmission by separating those who have been exposed to the virus from the school environment. The CDC recommends that fully vaccinated individuals get tested three to five days following direct exposure to COVID-19. Children younger than 5 years old and those with a disability or medical condition that makes wearing a face covering unsafe must quarantine for 14 days if they are exposed to the virus.

If a student/group of students needs to quarantine as a result of direct exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, MCS/AA will strive to minimize the disruption to student learning during the quarantine period by having systems in place for students to receive virtual instructional support. These structures will vary depending on the circumstances and will be communicated directly with families when the need arises.

Contingency Plans

While the top priority is providing in-person instruction five days a week, MCS/AA is engaged in ongoing contingency planning to address potential COVID-related issues that may arise throughout the school year.

If a student/group of students need to quarantine as a result of direct exposure to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, MCS/AA will strive to minimize disruption to student learning during a quarantine period by having systems in place for students to receive virtual instructional support. These structures will vary depending on the circumstances and will be communicated directly with families when the need arises.

MCS/AA Protocol for Handling Positive COVID Cases/Exposure

