



September 3, 2020

Re: Health and Safety related to COVID-19

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Opening our school buildings, for in-person instruction requires all stakeholders (parents, students, staff and administration) to have a role and responsibility in keeping our school community healthy. Please read the following health message carefully. The district has two new health and safety requirements for the 2020-2021 school year that are included in the district's reopening plan.

As a parent/guardian you play the important role in monitoring your child(ren)'s health daily. We need your assistance in screening your child(ren) each morning before beginning the school day. This includes a health assessment based on the symptoms of COVID-19 as identified by the Centers for Disease Control. Any children entering a bus or school grounds must have a screening done by a parent or guardian certifying that their child(ren) are not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms. While it is important to note that our school district is not experiencing a widespread outbreak at this time, we continue to take our role seriously in monitoring and mitigating any risk through safe and healthy practices. This includes social distancing, masks and hand washing. We continue to work closely with the Mount Olive Department of Health to ensure the safety of everyone.

If you have any questions about your child's health, please always err on the side of caution and seek medical attention for evaluation. Your child's physician will then be able to make a thoughtful, medically-based decision with regard to returning to school for in person learning. As a reminder, if children are at home and are feeling well enough to participate in the day's classroom lessons, please access the classroom remotely based on the link(s) provided by your child's teacher(s). If they are not, please report absences directly to the schools.

## **Mask Requirement:**

Students are required to wear a mask or face covering while riding the bus and throughout the school day. Mask wearing will be strongly enforced. Students are required to bring their own masks/face coverings and we strongly encourage all students to have at least two masks with them each day.

Please be advised that the CDC has recently updated their recommendations on masks. Due to the potential of respiratory droplets reaching others, *the use of masks with vents, gaiters and bandanas will not be an acceptable face covering for any student or staff member.* These types of coverings allow exhaled air to be expelled through holes in the material and therefore not deemed safe.



In The Road Back guidance from the NJ Department of Education, exceptions to the mask requirement include: 1) wearing a mask would inhibit the student's individual health and 2) a student's documented medical condition or disability as reflected in an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) precludes the use of face covering. If your student cannot wear a mask for health reasons, you must submit a doctor's note to your school nurse in your child's building.

## **COVID-19 Pre-Screening:**

The Road Back guidance also requires school districts to implement a pre-screening of all students and staff. Any of the symptoms below could indicate a COVID-19 infection in children and may put your child at risk for spreading illness to others. Please note that this list does not include all possible symptoms and children with COVID-19 may experience any, all, or none of these symptoms. **A parent/guardian MUST complete a pre-screening form each day for their child before the child comes to school.** If a pre-screening is not complete, your child will be pulled out of his/her first class and sent to the nurse's office for the pre-screening. *Students on virtual instruction who are not coming on school grounds do not have to complete the pre-screening.*

Parents can access the pre-screening form for their school by clicking on [CMS- Student Pre-screening form](#) each day their child(ren) are physically on school grounds.

### **Section 1: Symptoms**

Any of the symptoms below could indicate a COVID-19 infection in children and may put your child at risk for spreading illness to others. Please note that this list does not include all possible symptoms and children with COVID-19 may experience any, all, or none of these symptoms. Please check your child daily for these symptoms:

#### **Column A**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Chills
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rigors (shivers)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Myalgia (muscle aches)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Headache
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sore Throat
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nausea
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fatigue
<input type="checkbox"/>	Congestion or runny nose

#### **Column B**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Cough
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shortness of Breath
<input type="checkbox"/>	Difficulty Breathing
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fever (100 degrees F or higher)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Diarrhea
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vomiting
<input type="checkbox"/>	New loss of smell
<input type="checkbox"/>	New loss of taste

If **TWO OR MORE** of the fields in **Column A** are checked off OR **AT LEAST ONE** field in **column B** is checked off, please keep your child home and notify the school for further instructions.

## Section 2: Close Contact/Potential Exposure

Please verify if:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Your child has had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 10 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19
<input type="checkbox"/>	Someone in your household is diagnosed with COVID-19
<input type="checkbox"/>	Your child has traveled to an <a href="#">area of high community transmission</a> .

If **ANY** of the fields in Section 2 are checked off, your child should remain home for 14 days from the last date of exposure (if child is a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case) or date of return to New Jersey.

Contact your child's provider or your local health department for further guidance.

## What if an Individual has Symptoms of COVID-19 While at School?

It is important to note that the symptoms of COVID-19 are also common in other illnesses like the common cold, the flu, or seasonal allergies. Having symptoms of illness does not mean your child has COVID-19. Should a child or staff member have symptoms while in school, the following steps will be taken.

1. Child or the staff member will be screened by the School Nurse.
2. Individuals who are ill will be sent home.
3. Students and staff will be referred to their medical providers for follow-up.
4. Individuals suspected of having COVID-19 will be placed in an isolation room until they can be transported home in order to prevent community transmission.
5. The school district will communicate promptly with the Mount Olive Department of Health.
6. Appropriate actions based on the individual circumstances are then determined in cooperation with the DOH. However, at this time, the Department of Health is recommending the following scenarios when a child is sent home with potential COVID-19 symptoms:
  - 2 or more symptoms COVID-19 testing is recommended.
  - If a student is not tested, a medical note from your doctor is required to return to school.
  - If no medical clearance is provided then the student must remain out for 14 days.

If an individual displays symptoms of COVID-19 **and** has had any of the following circumstances apply, they must remain home for at least 14 days from the last date of exposure or return to New Jersey.

1. Your child has had close contact with a person confirmed with COVID-19.
2. Someone in your household is diagnosed with COVID-19.

3. Your child has traveled to an area with a high community transmission in the last fourteen days.

### **Confirmed COVID-19 Case within the School Community**

Should a confirmed case of COVID-19 be present in our schools, district officials will consult immediately with the Department of Health.

1. District administration will notify the school community of a confirmed positive case within a school building.
2. District administration will work with the Mount Olive Department of Health to trace any potential exposure to other school community members.
3. District administration will work with the Mount Olive Department of Health to determine the appropriate next steps based on .

During these uncertain times, we appreciate your assistance in keeping our school community safe. Please contact your building principal or school nurse for any additional questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

*Susan M. Breton, Ed.D.*

Dr. Susan M. Breton  
Director of SEL/CCR