

## **Columbus Municipal School District- Covid-19 Updated for 2022-2023**

We will be implementing several strategies to maintain healthy environments in our district.

## **Columbus Municipal School District will be mask optional for the 2022-2023 school year.**

### **Building Procedures for Covid-19 Updated for 2022-2023**

#### **Cleaning and Disinfection**

- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces (e.g., playground equipment, door handles, sink handles, drinking fountains) within the school and on school buses at least daily or between use as much as possible. Use of shared objects (e.g., gym or physical education equipment, art supplies, toys, games) should be limited when possible, or cleaned between use.
- Develop a schedule for increased, routine cleaning and disinfection.
- Ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from children. Use products that meet EPA disinfection criteria.
- Cleaning products should not be used near children, and staff should ensure that there is adequate ventilation when using these products to prevent children or themselves from inhaling toxic fumes.

#### **Shared Objects**

- Discourage sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect.
- Keep each child's belongings separated from others' and in individually labeled containers, cubbies, or areas.
- Ensure adequate supplies to minimize sharing of high touch materials to the extent possible (e.g., assigning each student their own art supplies, equipment) or limit use of supplies and equipment by one group of children at a time and clean and disinfect between use.
- Avoid sharing electronic devices, toys, books, and other games or learning aids.

#### **Modified Layouts**

- Space seating/desks at least 3 feet apart when feasible.
- Turn desks to face in the same direction (rather than facing each other) if possible, or have students sit on only one side of tables.
- Utilize desk shields when possible.

#### **Food Service**

- Breakfast will be served in the classrooms, and lunch will be served in the school cafeteria maintaining social distancing if feasible. Outdoor dining will be available to mitigate student capacity and exposure.

- Use disposable food service items (e.g., utensils, dishes). If disposable items are not feasible or desirable, ensure that all non-disposable food service items are handled with gloves and washed with dish soap and hot water or in a dishwasher. Individuals should wash their hands after removing their gloves or after directly handling used food service items.
- All trash will be collected by the custodial staff daily and rooms will be sanitized.

## **How to Protect Yourself & Others**

### **CMSD will require face mask to be optional in all school district buildings and buses, but encourage students to wear masks if possible.**

- All eligible students, teachers, and staff 5 years of age and older should receive COVID-19 vaccination. Stay up to date on vaccinations.
- Vaccination is currently the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. Promoting vaccination can help schools safely return to in-person learning as well as extracurricular activities and sports.
- Although masks are optional, anyone who chooses to wear a mask should be supported in their decision to do so at any COVID-19 Community Level, including low.

### **Everyone Should Wash your hands often**

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.

### **Avoid close contact**

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick, even inside your home. If possible, maintain 3 feet between the person who is sick and other household members.
- Put distance between yourself and other people outside of your home.
  - Remember that some people without symptoms may be able to spread virus.
  - Stay at least 3 feet (about arms' length) from other people.
  - Keeping distance from others is especially important for people who are at higher risk of getting very sick. (Unvaccinated, immunocompromised, and older adults 65+)

### **Cover coughs and sneezes**

- If you are around others and do not have on your cloth face covering, remember to always cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow and do not spit.

- Throw used tissues in the trash.
- Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, clean your hands with a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

### **Clean and disinfect**

- Clean AND disinfect frequently touched surfaces daily. This includes tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- If surfaces are dirty, clean them. Use detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
- Then, use a household disinfectant.

### **Monitor Your Health**

- If you are sick, please stay home.
- Be alert for symptoms. Watch for fever, cough, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of COVID-19.
  - Especially important if you are running essential errands, going into the office or workplace, and in settings where it may be difficult to keep a physical distance of 3 feet.
- Take your temperature if symptoms develop.
  - Don't take your temperature within 30 minutes of exercising or after taking medications that could lower your temperature, like acetaminophen.
- Follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.

## **Daily Procedures -Covid-19 Updates 2022-2023**

### **STUDENT DROP-OFF AND PICK-UP PROCESSES MUST LIMIT CONTACT**

- Ask students to enter and exit in single-file lines to enable physical distance.
- Establish one or two entry and egress points that enable the flow of students to move in a single direction.
- Limit visitors in the school building to parent conferences or other pertinent school business; adults entering the building should follow CMSD guidelines for wearing masks.
- Hand sanitizer stations are also located throughout the building to encourage healthy hand hygiene.
- Encourage families to drive their children to school if possible. This will reduce student numbers on buses.

### **Screen Children Upon Arrival**

- Persons who have a fever of 100.4<sup>0</sup> (38.0<sup>0</sup>C) or above or other signs of illness should not be admitted to the facility. Encourage parents to be on the alert for signs of illness in their children and to keep them home when they are sick. Screen all children upon arrival.
- There are several methods that facilities can use to protect their workers while conducting temperature screenings. The most protective methods incorporate social distancing (maintaining a distance of 3 feet from others) or physical barriers to eliminate or minimize exposures due to close contact to a child who has symptoms during screening.

### **Transportation Procedures -Covid-19 Updates 2022-2023**

Transportation will be provided, but social distancing on buses will be a challenge to observe. For this reason, **we encourage parents to use private transportation if possible.**

- All passengers should engage in hand hygiene upon entering the bus. Hand sanitizer stations are provided at all bus entrances.
- Facial coverings will be optional for CMSD faculty and staff. Any child over age two may wear a face covering and be supported for their choice.
- Students should be encouraged to maintain social distance while at bus stops and avoid congregating in groups while waiting for the bus.

### **Mississippi State Department of Health Covid-19 School-Based Testing Program for unvaccinated Persons 2022-2023.**

#### **Screening Testing**

- Routine screening testing of asymptomatic unvaccinated students, teachers, and staff is recommended as an additional measure to prevent further transmission.
- Screening testing can identify potential cases and prompt rapid isolation and quarantine of individuals exposed to COVID-19 who are not fully vaccinated.
- Recommended algorithm for schools and school districts engaged in screening testing:
  - Weekly screening of all interested asymptomatic unvaccinated teachers, staff, or students.
  - Weekly screening of asymptomatic unvaccinated students (and teachers/coaches) participating in school sponsored extracurricular activities of any type, including sports, as a condition of participation (school district decision).

Screening tests can also be utilized as follows:

- Contacts to cases (15 minutes of cumulative contact over a 24-hour period at <6 feet): Unvaccinated students who are contacts to cases as described will not require exclusion from school for quarantine if they receive testing every two days and remain asymptomatic. At the end of 7 days, they will no longer require testing.

- Screening tests may be utilized for asymptomatic students/teachers/staff participating in school-sponsored summer programs or other school sponsored activities as a condition of participation.

Additional Considerations:

- Fully vaccinated students and teachers/staff (2 weeks after completion of one-dose or two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series) do not require weekly asymptomatic screening.
- Fully vaccinated students and teachers/staff do not require quarantine or testing after contact to an infected person.
- This screening program is not designed for symptomatic individuals. Any symptomatic student or teacher/staff should continue to be excluded from school/school district and be evaluated by their primary medical provider.