

Mt. Zion School District Safety Plan for COVID-19

2020-2021

Question and Answer Document (new items highlighted)

FACE COVERINGS

1. Are all individuals in a school building required to wear face masks at all times? Yes, with exceptions. As required by IDPH, except while eating and during band, face masks must be worn at all times in school buildings, even when the social distance is maintained. All individuals in a school building must wear a face-mask unless they have provided a doctor's note or are outside (PE, recess, etc.) with appropriate social distancing.

2. How do schools verify a student meets an exception to the face mask requirement? Schools require a doctor's note (family medical doctor/primary care provider) for students and staff who are not able to wear a face mask.

3. Can individuals in a school building wear a face shield instead of a face covering? No, unless approved for speech services.

4. Will face coverings be provided by the State of Illinois to schools? While the state plans to provide every student with a mask, it is the parents responsibility to ensure they have one before attending school. It is encouraged that students have a backup mask in their backpack should they need it.

5. What happens if my child doesn't wear a mask or medical? A student without a mask will be provided one, if the schools can maintain a supply. However, if the student refuses to wear it or doesn't have one to wear they will be held at a designated location at the school until the parents can pick them up. Students will be provided remote learning until they return with a mask.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

6. Are all individuals in a school building required to maintain social distance (remain 6 feet apart) at all times? Social distance must be observed as much as possible. Desks do not need to be spaced 6 feet apart; however, some excess furniture has been removed from classrooms to allow for as much space as possible in between desks.

7. Is social distance required to be maintained on school buses? No. No more than 50 individuals may be on a bus at one time. All individuals on a bus must wear a face covering,

unless they meet a face-covering exception. It is recommended that students from the same household sit together on a bus.

8. How will schools handle passing periods and allowing students to move from class-to-class? When possible, the following hallway procedures will be used:

- Provide hallway supervision using hall and bathroom monitors to ensure a limited number of persons enter bathrooms at one time;
- Use marking to designate one-way paths in hallways and designate certain staircases one-way only, as possible;
- Remove furniture or other items that may encourage congregating in certain areas;
- Limit number of riders in elevators to one or two students with an additional adult (when student needs continuous support or supervision); and
- Suspend the use of lockers.

CAPACITY LIMITS

9. What does ‘one space’ mean? Examples of one space may include one school bus or one classroom. Capacity restrictions do not apply to an entire school building.

10. What does ‘one space’ mean when outside? Each group of 50 or fewer individuals must remain 30 feet apart. If individuals are 6 feet apart at all times, face coverings do not need to be worn.

SYMPTOM SCREENINGS/TEMPERATURE CHECKS

11. How should symptom screenings be administered? The District has determined that self-certification of health will be the responsibility of each parent prior to sending their child to school and each employee prior to reporting to work. Only students and staff who have completed the self-certification and meet the criteria to report to school will be permitted to do so. Parents and employees will be provided the health certification screening form. Parents, by sending your child to school, and employees who report to work are certifying they have conducted the daily health screen and meet the criteria for your child to attend school or for the employee to report to work. Individuals who have a temperature greater than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit, are experiencing one or more COVID-19 symptoms, such as, fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, fatigue, muscle and body aches, headache, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, congestion or runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea, or do not meet the criteria for access to the building will be denied access. Individuals who exhibit symptoms should be sent home and referred to a medical provider for evaluation and treatment and be given information about when they can return to school.

12. Who can perform symptom screenings? Any staff member may perform in-person temperature checks and symptom screenings. It is not required that a certified school nurse perform these checks and screenings. Office staff will be asking for symptom information when students are called in sick.

SELF-QUARANTINE

13. When must an individual self-quarantine? Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 or who are suspected of having COVID-19 infection should seek medical attention, self-isolate, and follow CDC guidelines for discontinuation of isolation. Individuals who have had close contact (within 6 feet for 15 minutes) with an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 or is suspected of having COVID-19 infection should isolate at home and monitor for symptoms for 14 days. Individuals who did not have close contact can return to school immediately after disinfection.

14. What is the procedure if a student were to show symptoms mid-day? Schools should provide a supervised quarantine space for students/staff who are experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms and may be awaiting evaluation and/or pickup. Students must never be left alone and must be supervised at all times while maintaining necessary precautions within the quarantine space. Judgment of nursing professionals or the administrator/designee (in the absence of a nurse) must determine who is placed in the quarantine space and the level of supervision (e.g., supervised by nurse or unlicensed personnel) required for persons within the quarantine space.

REMOTE LEARNING

15. Can parents opt-in to full remote instruction for students? Yes. If students are not at school they can still complete assignments and all expectations of their teachers to maintain their student status. Alternate assessments can be provided. Remote learning students will be allowed to be on school property after regular school hours on designated days to take assessments that cannot be completed at home. Social distancing will be maintained and masks required. Contact the principal to sign up for remote learning.

16. What are my exact options for remote learning? We are allowing our parents to choose between the following educational options:

In-person instruction all day with a mask

In-person instruction all day without a mask, but with a medical note on file.

In-person instruction part-time with a mask, and the other part remote learning.

Remote instruction all day.

After giving the school notification of any changes, parents can switch between learning methods during the school year, as the situation or their family situation changes. Teachers are providing their in-class instruction through videos to all those learning at home.

17. If parents choose remote learning, are those K-6 students given a device? Yes.

18. Is a school required to transition to remote instruction if an individual who was in the building tests positive for COVID-19? No. However, the school will be closed temporarily until appropriate cleaning takes place.

19. What if there are problems with technology issues related to remote learning access? Students and/or parents should contact the teacher if there are problems logging into a digital platform, accessing assignments, or with any other technical concerns experienced on remote learning days.

OTHER

20. When is the first day of school? The first day for student attendance is scheduled for August 20th, and it will follow the modified schedule outlined in our plan document.

21. Why do we feel the parent choice method is best in phase 4? While in phase 4 and the governor allows in person instruction, we believe education should be parent choice to attend school up to five days per week, blended or remote because:

CDC recommends school everyday

ISBE in their latest guidance recommends students 5 days a week.

Allows curriculum to advance everyday versus every other day. Key for young kids learning to read and older students in classes necessary for post HS plans.

Allows for flexibility since every family doesn't have the same needs.

Avoids day care issues.

Follows the information gained from our parent survey.

22. Can you provide a summary of what phase 3 looks like? Teachers will be at school and providing videos and assignments to students at home.

23. Will my student still have school orientation events to attend? Orientations at the beginning of the year will be virtual, at the times provided by each school.

24. Will Grandparent's Day events be canceled this year? At this time grandparent days are being moved to the spring. Dates will be provided by each school.

25. Will absences count against High School students under the final exam waiver policy? No. However, there will be no final exams during the first semester. A decision about the second semester will be made at a later date.

26. How will Homecoming events be handled this fall? Traditional homecoming events that result in gatherings more than the amount allowed by the state will not be allowed, such as the parade, assembly, and dance. The school will still have dress-up days, etc.

27. For planning my year, how do I know which events will still be held? Parents can go to our calendar on the district website for events that can take place.

28. Is the Fieldhouse open for non-student use? We will post on the website when the facility reopens to the community.

29. How / when will the desk be cleaned since students are in them throughout the day?

Desk will be cleaned, at minimum at the end of each day. Additionally, students will be offered hand sanitizer throughout the day. Individual bottles of hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies are being provided in every classroom. Refill stations for these products are also designated in each school.

30. Will BASAP be open? BASAP is planning to be open during phase 4, but will not be open during remote learning days (Phases 1, 2, and 3). Contact the BASAP director, Lori Rutherford at Rutherfordl@mtzschoools.org.

31. Who do I contact for transportation questions or to submit a change in transportation? Contact the transportation director, Mark Hogan at hogan@mtzschoools.org.

32. Who do I contact for food service questions or to sign up for pre-ordered meals for remote learning students? Contact the food service director, Darcie Hayes at hayesd@mtzschoools.org.

33. Who do I contact for general school questions?

Travis Roundcount, Superintendent at tr@mtzschoools.org

Brian Rhoades, Associate Superintendent at bmr@mtzschoools.org

Billy Rockey, Director of Curriculum and Technology at rockeyw@mtzschoools.org

Renea Smith, Special Education Administrator at lsmith@dps61.org

Justin Johnson, High School Principal at johnsonj@mtzschoools.org

Mike Mose, Assistant Principal at mosem@mtzschoools.org

Ben Davis, Athletic Director at davisb@mtzschoools.org

Julie Marquardt, Junior High Principal at marquardtj@mtzschoools.org

Randall Thacker, Intermediate Principal at thackerr@mtzschoools.org

Gary Gruen, Grade School Principal at grueng@mtzschoools.org

Heather Ethell, McGaughey Principal at ethellh@mtzschoools.org