



SUPERINTENDENT
Charlotte Seals

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December 22, 2020

Dear MCS Families,

We have reached the final school day of 2020, and what a year it has been! We are so glad that teaching and learning have taken place successfully on our campuses and virtually, thanks to the dedication of faculty, administrators, students, and parents.

At the start of the school year, we created a decision tree, based on the guidance of the Mississippi Department of Health and CDC, that addresses what to do if a student tests positive, has symptoms, or has been exposed to Covid-19. As quarantine recommendations have recently changed, we have modified our decision tree to include an early return option for students in specific cases of quarantine not affecting whole classes or groups of students. The updated document is attached to this letter and also is available on our website. Please familiarize yourself with these steps and e-mail your principal over the holidays if your child has a positive diagnosis of Covid-19 or is a close contact of someone with Covid-19. During the break, and especially as we return to school in January, please remember to carefully check your children for any signs of illness each day. Keep them home every time they are feeling unwell.

Thank you for all that you are doing to stop the spread: wearing a mask, washing your hands, and watching your distance. While we look forward to enjoying the upcoming holidays, we must remain vigilant to keep the virus from spreading. This fall we saw that social gatherings among students outside of school led to increased transmission rates. Please help us return to school safely in January by doing all that you can for your children to avoid the virus and its spread in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

Charlotte A. Seals
Superintendent
Madison County Schools

COVID-19 CORONA VIRUS

DECISION TREE FOR STUDENTS

References include the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Madison County School District.

Absences for Covid-19 issues will not be counted against the student's attendance record.

Parents will be notified by school personnel if a student or staff member in their child's class, group, or team has been diagnosed with Covid-19.

Definitions

Close contact: Exposure that is less than six feet for more than 15 minutes, cumulative in the day.

Quarantine: Staying away from all people as much as possible.

Concentration of cases: Three or more cases within any group, class, or team. In the event of a concentration of cases, all group members should quarantine for 14 days.

1

Parent notifies school that student has tested positive for COVID-19

Return to school after:

- Quarantine at home for 10 calendar days from date of onset of symptoms, **and**
- Fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, **and**
- Decrease in symptoms

2

At Home Procedure: Parent notifies the school that student has COVID-19 symptoms

Student should be tested for Covid 19.

Negative Test Result

Return to school after:

- Quarantine at home until fever free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication, **and**
- Decrease in symptoms

Positive Test Result

Return to school after:

- Quarantine for 10 calendar days from onset of symptoms, **and**
- Fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, **and**
- Decrease in symptoms

COVID-19 CORONA VIRUS

DECISION TREE FOR STUDENTS *Continued*

3

At School Procedure: Student notifies school staff that he/she has COVID-19 symptoms.

Student notifies staff member and is taken to the sick room on campus for temperature check. Parents will be notified and contacted to pick up student. Student should be tested for COVID-19.

Negative Test Result

Return to school after:

- Quarantine at home until fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, **and**
- Decrease in symptoms

Positive Test Result

Return to school after:

- Quarantine at home for 10 days from date of onset of symptoms, **and**
- Fever free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, **and**
- Decrease in symptoms

4

Student/parent reports that student has had close contact with a COVID-19 patient, or student is identified as a close contact of a confirmed positive COVID-19 case at school.

Student must quarantine at home for 14 days*. Testing for COVID-19 is recommended. Student may return to school after the 14 days provided the student experienced no symptoms of illness during quarantine.

*Early Return Options:

- 1) Students who present a Negative RT-PCR test result to school officials and have had zero symptoms during daily monitoring may return to school on day eight of quarantine. The RT-PCR test must be taken on or after day five of quarantine.
- 2) Students who have had zero symptoms during daily monitoring may return to school on day 11 without testing.

5

Concentration of cases

If a class, group, or team of students has three or more cases of COVID-19, the entire class, group, or team must quarantine at home for 14 days.