



MONROE COUNTY
COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
ENGAGE. EMPOWER. EDUCATE.

March 3, 2022

Dear MCCSC Students, Families and Staff,

Thank you for your continued efforts these past two years to limit the spread of COVID-19. MCCSC officials have seen a tremendous level of support in helping our community adhere to COVID-19 guidelines and we thank you for your assistance. We are continuing to have regular conversations with local health officials and medical professionals to understand COVID-19 realities and recommendations while working to support the academic and social, emotional, behavioral and mental health needs of our students.

Recently, the MCCSC Board of School Trustees voted to follow the Monroe County Department of Health mask mandate. Based upon this decision, MCCSC no longer will be requiring masks when Monroe County's mask mandate ends. Therefore, beginning Friday, March 4, 2022, masks will become optional at all MCCSC schools and facilities. Additionally, based upon revised federal guidance, masks will no longer be required on school buses.

While masks no longer will be required beginning March 4th, masks are welcome to be worn by students, staff, and visitors. Many people may choose to do so to protect themselves and others around them. Students and staff who wear masks will be supported in their decision.

MCCSC understands that these times remain challenging for everyone, but for many different reasons. As certain restrictions are eased, MCCSC recognizes there may be new stressors for families with vulnerable loved ones. Families are encouraged to help their children identify obstacles to continuing safe practices and ask them what kind of support they need to do so. The use of readily available rapid tests is one way to reduce risks prior to visiting vulnerable family members. MCCSC is working with the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) to acquire home testing kits to provide free to families who would like to test their children at home. The IDOH has stated that these tests will allow families to test at home if their student develops symptoms of COVID-19.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "As more people are getting vaccinated and resuming activities they did before the pandemic, parents and caregivers are making hard decisions on how to protect their families." Questions related to these decisions may include:

- What is your family's vaccination status?

- Do you have family members with medical conditions or a weakened immune system?
- Where is your family going?
- What are the number of COVID-19 cases and vaccinated people in your community or the community you are visiting?

As families prepare for MCCSC's new COVID-19 protocols, additional information for families may be found on the district's website at www.mccsc.edu. Families also may find additional information at the Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) website at <https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/> or at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at <https://www.cdc.gov/> or <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/groups/families-covid-19.html>.

New MCCSC Positive COVID-19 Notification and Isolation Guidelines

MCCSC is continuing to monitor students for symptoms of COVID-19 and we ask that students, staff, and families continue to monitor for symptoms at home.

According to the Indiana State Department of Health, <https://www.in.gov/isdh/28470.htm>, individuals who suspect a COVID-19 infection should:

- Get tested
- Isolate to protect others (stay home when sick)
- Rapidly notify their close contacts if they are positive – you may use this confidential website those you feel are close contacts - www.tellyourcontacts.org
- Seek healthcare if at higher risk

If you test your student, and the test is **negative** – your student should remain at home until their symptoms are improving and they are fever-free at least 24 hours, without the use of fever reducing medications such as Tylenol or Motrin.

If you test your student, and the test is **positive** –

- Individuals aged five (5) and up who test positive for COVID-19 should isolate for five (5) days from onset of symptoms or positive test if asymptomatic and may return on day six (6) if they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication so long as symptoms are improving. Individuals should wear a mask through day ten (10).
- Individuals under five (5) years old who test positive for COVID-19 should isolate for seven (7) days from onset of symptoms or positive test if asymptomatic and may return on day eight (8) if they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of medication so long as symptoms are improving.

- A negative COVID test or doctor's note is no longer required to return to school.

If your student tests positive for Covid-19, please IMMEDIATELY contact your student's school health office to receive your student's return to school date and to allow us to provide you additional assistance. By immediately notifying MCCSC, we will notify other families and staff of potential exposures.

Effective March 4, 2022, social distancing will no longer be required.

MCCSC has coordinated district-level notification to the families of the class (or other location) in which a positive case has been identified. If your child has been potentially exposed, you will receive an email notification. This will allow families to be vigilant in monitoring for symptoms. Please see sample letter [here](#).

MCCSC district officials will continue to review guidance from the Monroe County Health Department, the Indiana Department of Health, and from the district's COVID-19 Monitoring and Advisory Committee. **These new procedures are subject to change based on new recommendations or changes to COVID-19 realities within our community.**

As always, MCCSC encourages eligible individuals to get vaccinated. Vaccines can help prevent serious illness and death. To learn more about benefits of getting a COVID-19 vaccine, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/vaccine-benefits.html>

Additional information can be found at the "COVID-19 Information" page on MCCSC's website at www.mccsc.edu. For additional questions, please contact your student's school health office.