



**Montville Township
Public Schools™**

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Montville Township Public Schools COVID-19 Plan

2022-2023 School Year

INTRODUCTION

In September 2022, the Montville Township Public School District is looking forward to an opening that will see our students returning for in-person learning with a full-day schedule. As we emerge from the pandemic, protocols that have been in place for the past two years have been relaxed.

The district has developed a number of programs to support the academic needs of students. These include the Skill Building Summer Camp Program that was offered to selected students in the summer of 2022. In addition, the district will continue to provide supplemental afterschool programs in English Language Arts and Mathematics at the elementary and middle school levels in the 2022-2023 school year.

The district also remains focused on the mental health of both our students and staff members. A focus on Mindfulness has been in place for the past five years and will continue. Additionally, the district contracted with an outside service to provide additional counselors in the district.

To support and prioritize uninterrupted, full-time, in-person learning and care, NJDOH has moved from an individual case-based response strategy to a transmission mitigation strategy, where the risk of the whole school community, including the risk of interruptions to learning, is considered. Vaccinations, including booster doses for those eligible, remain the best defense against COVID-19.

This guidance and protocols below are based on what is currently known about the transmission and severity of COVID-19 and is subject to change as additional information becomes available.

Handwashing and Respiratory Etiquette

Hand sanitizer is provided at the entrance to each classroom. Students and staff will be encouraged to perform regular handwashing, as recommended for 20 seconds, or sanitize their hands at regular intervals and especially after sneezing/coughing/blowing their nose, using the restroom, after recess, and before eating.

All students and staff are reminded to use proper etiquette when they have the need to cough or sneeze. These include covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, throwing used tissues in the trash, and coughing or sneezing into your elbow (not your hands) if you do not have a tissue. Guidelines are provided by the CDC:

https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/etiquette/coughing_sneezing.html

Cleaning and Maintaining Healthy Facilities, Including Improving Ventilation

It is acknowledged that the primary means of the spread of COVID-19 is person to person, primarily through droplet transmission. The MTPS has developed and successfully implemented a daily cleaning protocol to be followed by the Aramark staff and members of the MTPS custodial and maintenance staff to provide for increased routine cleaning and disinfection of those high-touch surfaces throughout the building. These surfaces include classroom desks and chairs, lunchroom tables and chairs, drinking fountains, door handles and push plates, handrails, bathrooms, light switches, sink and faucet handles, and elevator buttons, and school bus seats which shall be cleaned and disinfected at least daily.

Hand sanitizer dispensers will be made available in all classrooms and offices.

A schedule for increased routine cleaning and disinfection has been developed and will be followed by the Aramark custodial staff and the MTPS custodial and maintenance staff members. All cleaning products will be used in accordance with label directions.

The district's H.V.A.C. systems have a fresh air component, which provides for compliance with the additional fresh air circulation, which is recommended by the CDC as an effective precaution against the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The use of open windows will be encouraged. The use of outside, unconditioned air, however, will require the cooling and heating systems to work harder with less efficiency. As an extra precaution, the district has installed ionization filters to its classroom uni-ventilators and building filtration systems. These devices are ozone-free and filter the building's air, requiring less fresh air to be circulated. In the classrooms, these filters will allow the cooling and heating systems to maintain a comfortable temperature. Filter replacement will occur with routine frequency and shall be managed by the custodial and maintenance personnel.

Our best defense against the spread of COVID-19 is adherence to the following protocols:

- Regular washing of hands with soap and water or with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth.
- Follow good respiratory hygiene by covering coughs and sneezes with a bent elbow or tissue.
- Stay at home and self-isolate with minor symptoms such as cough, headache, and fever until you recover. If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical attention.

Masks

Masking continues to be an important part of the layered prevention strategies central to the prevention of SARS-CoV-2 transmission and is recommended by CDC for all individuals (age 2 years and older), including in schools when COVID-19 community levels are high. School administrators should be prepared for the emergence of new variants or substantial waning immunity that could result in greater morbidity, mortality, and disruption, and require returning to additional mitigation measures.

Individuals (including parents/guardians) should make decisions to mask even when school policies may not require masking based on their specific situation (e.g., if they or their family members are immunocompromised or at high risk of severe illness from COVID-19).

NJDOH recommends that schools require masks in the following circumstances:

- After returning from isolation – students and staff who return to school during days 6-10 of isolation are required to wear a mask, or until they test negative using two antigen tests collected at least 48 hours apart **starting on day 6**.
- After a COVID-19 exposure - exposed individuals, including those not needing to quarantine, should wear a well-fitting mask for 10 days from last exposure
- When illness occurs in school – students or staff who become ill with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 while in school or care are required to wear a mask until they leave the premises
- Students or staff who are immunocompromised or live with persons at high risk for severe COVID-19 illness
- Individuals who are concerned about disease transmission
- During an outbreak

Parental Symptom Screening

Parents/caregivers should be strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of illness every day. Students who are sick should not attend school.

Exclusion

Parents should not send students to school when sick. The NJDOH recommends that students with the following symptoms be promptly isolated from others and excluded from school:

- At least two of the following symptoms: fever (measure or subjective), chills, rigors (shivers), myalgia (muscle aches), headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose; OR
- At least one of the following symptoms: new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new olfactory disorder, new taste disorder.

Individuals regardless of vaccination status who test positive, and individuals with COVID-19 symptoms who have not been tested and do not have an alternative diagnosis from their healthcare provider shall:

- Stay home for at least 5 full days after the onset of symptoms or if asymptomatic after the positive test (day of symptoms is day 0; if asymptomatic, day the test was performed is day 0).
- If they have no symptoms or symptoms are resolving after 5 days and are fever-free (without the use of fever-reducing medication) for 24 hours, they can leave their home and should;
 - Wear a mask when around others at home and in public (indoors and outdoors) for an additional 5 days, or until they test negative using two antigen tests collected at least 48 hours apart **starting on day 6**.
 - On days 6-10, limit participation in extracurricular activities to only those activities where masks can be worn consistently and correctly.

Montville Township School District Cleaning Protocols – Buildings

These additional procedures, adopted by the district, help mitigate exposure of the students and staff to contaminants, such as the COVID-19 virus, while they are in the district’s buildings. These protocols work in conjunction with each other to provide additional protection, but cannot eliminate all risks as they are confined by practical constraints.

The Cleaning Protocols include two components, procedures for cleaning and those for disinfecting. As indicated by the CDC, “cleaning with soap and water reduces the number of germs, dirt and impurities on the surface. Disinfecting kills germs on surfaces.” The cleaning protocols include the wiping down of white boards and hard surfaces, the cleaning of the floors, and the removing the garbage in order to remove germs, dirt, and impurities from the classrooms. These procedures are completed daily at the end of each day. Due to concerns with the daily cleaning of the buildings in the past, the district has contracted with a new custodial management service. This company was selected based on the recommendations of other districts due to their high cleaning standards. The Cleaning Protocols for each day are detailed below. They include the touchpoints to be addressed in the various areas of the buildings.

Disinfecting Protocols include a mist disinfectant that is applied after the daily cleaning is completed at the end of each day. The mist disinfectant is applied to the hard surfaces in the classroom and other spaces. The disinfectant selected by the MTPS is non-toxic and kills germs, including those from the COVID-19 virus, on contact. A secondary set of disinfectant procedures has been added while students and staff are present.

The district has contracted additional custodial staff for periodic disinfecting of surfaces, including the wiping down of hard surfaces such as desks, tables, doorknobs, light switches, sinks, water fountains, restrooms, and specialty spaces. The addition of this secondary procedure will increase the routine frequency of disinfecting throughout the schools, as suggested by *The Road Back*. It does not ensure that spaces will be disinfecting after every use during the school day. The application of hand-washing and use of hand sanitizer by the students and staff mitigates the spread of the infection between disinfection applications.

In the event that a COVID-19 case is confirmed, the facilities staff will close any exposed areas for cleaning and disinfecting and open any outside doors and windows to increase fresh air circulation to the areas. Custodial staff will complete a deep cleaning and disinfecting of the exposed space.

Classroom High Touch Objects Disinfected

Description of Areas to Clean/Disinfect:

- Armrests and Back of Chairs
- Cabinets/Drawer Handles
- Desk and Table Tops/Surfaces
- Doorknobs/Handles/Keypads
- Electronics
- Light Switches/Room Controls
- Paper Towel/Tissue Dispensers
- Sinks/Hardware
- Soap Dispensers
- Student Desks
- Floors
- Glass/Windows
- Walls

Vents
White/Chalk/SMART Boards

All high touch objects and surfaces are disinfected with ES364 Neutral Disinfectant and Hydrogen Peroxide Multi-Purpose Cleaner and Bioesque

Library High Touch Objects Disinfected

Description of Areas to Clean/Disinfect:

Armrests and Back of Chairs
Cabinets/Drawer Handles
Desk and Table Tops/Surfaces
Doorknobs/Handles/Keypads
Electronics
Light Switches/Room Controls
Paper Towel/Tissue Dispensers
Sinks/Hardware
Soap Dispensers
Student Desks
Floors
Glass/Windows
Walls
Vents
White/Chalk/SMART Boards

All high touch objects and surfaces are disinfected with ES364 Neutral Disinfectant and Hydrogen Peroxide Multi-Purpose Cleaner and Bioesque

Entrance Ways High Touch Objects Disinfected

Description of Areas to Clean/Disinfect:

Armrests and Bank of Chairs
Doorknobs/Handles/Keypads
Light Switches/Room Controls
Floors
Glass/Windows
Walls
Vents

All high touch objects and surfaces are disinfected with ES364 Neutral Disinfectant and Hydrogen Peroxide Multi-Purpose Cleaner and Bioesque

Hallways High Touch Objects Disinfected

Description of Areas to Clean/Disinfect:

Doorknobs/Handles/Keypads
Handrails
Light Switches/Room Controls
Lockers/Handles
Floors
Glass/Windows
Walls
Vents

All high touch objects and surfaces are disinfected with ES364 Neutral Disinfectant and Hydrogen Peroxide Multi-Purpose Cleaner and Bioesque

Stairwells High Touch Objects Disinfected

Description of Areas to Clean/Disinfect:

Doorknobs/Handles/Keypads
Handrails
Light Switches/Room Controls
Floors
Glass/Windows
Walls
Vents

All high touch objects and surfaces are disinfected with ES364 Neutral Disinfectant and Hydrogen Peroxide Multi-Purpose Cleaner and Bioesque

Offices and Conference Rooms High Touch Objects Disinfected

Description of Areas to Clean/Disinfect:

Armrests and Bank of Chairs
Cabinets/Drawer Handles
Desks and Tables Tops/Surfaces
Doorknobs/Handles/Keypads
Light Switches/Room Controls
Office Equipment/Copiers
Glass/Windows
Floors
Vents
Walls and WhiteBoards

All high touch objects and surfaces are disinfected with ES364 Neutral Disinfectant and Hydrogen Peroxide Multi-Purpose Cleaner and Bioesque

Restrooms/Showers/Locker Rooms High Touch Objects Disinfected

Description of Areas to Clean/Disinfect:

Doorknobs/Handles/Keypads
Light Switches/Room Controls
Bathroom Stalls
Handrails/Hooks
Sinks/Hardware
Counter Tops/Shelf Edges/Cabinets
Electric Hand Dryers
Paper Towel/Tissue Dispensers
Lockers/Handles
Soap Dispensers
Toilet Flush Levers/Seats
Floors
Glass/Windows/Mirrors
Vents
Walls

All high touch objects and surfaces are disinfected with ES364 Neutral Disinfectant and Hydrogen Peroxide Multi-Purpose Cleaner and Bioesque

Auditoriums High Touch Objects Disinfected

Description of Areas to Clean/Disinfect:

Armrests and Bank of Chairs
Doorknobs/Handles/Keypads
Light Switches/Room Controls
Glass/Windows
Floors
Vents
Walls

All high touch objects and surfaces are disinfected with ES364 Neutral Disinfectant and Hydrogen Peroxide Multi-Purpose Cleaner and Bioesque

Miscellaneous/ Other High Touch Objects Disinfected

Description of Areas to Clean/Disinfect:

Fitness Equipment
Stair Handrails
Lamps
Lockers/Handles
Elevators
Storage Bins
Shelves/Racking
Floors
Glass/Windows
Walls
Vents

All high touch objects and surfaces are disinfected with ES364 Neutral Disinfectant and Hydrogen Peroxide Multi-Purpose Cleaner and Bioesque

Cafeterias High Touch Objects Disinfected

Description of Areas to Clean/Disinfect:

Armrests and Back of Chairs
Cabinet/Drawer Handles
Dispensers (Hand Sanitizer/Soap)
Doorknobs/Handles/Keypads
Light Switches/Room Controls
Paper Towel/Napkin Dispensers
Serving Lines
Sinks/Hardware
Table Countertops and Surfaces
Utensil Dispensers
Glass/Windows
Floors
Vents
Walls

All high touch objects and surfaces are disinfected with ES364 Neutral Disinfectant and Hydrogen Peroxide Multi-Purpose Cleaner and Bioesque

PlaygroundsDescription of Areas to Clean/Disinfect:

All Playground Apparatus

All high touch objects and surfaces are disinfected with ES364 Neutral Disinfectant and Hydrogen Peroxide Multi-Purpose Cleaner and Bioesque

School BusesDescription of Areas to Clean/Disinfect:

Disinfect all surfaces

All high touch objects and surfaces are disinfected with ES364 Neutral Disinfectant and Hydrogen Peroxide Multi-Purpose Cleaner and Bioesque