RETURNING TO SCHOOL

REVIEWING OUR COVID SAFETY PLAN

Menlo Park City School District
Parent Information Meeting, August 10, 2021
Traducción en español está disponible

Seleccione el ícono de "interpretación" y seleccione español.
No entity, including MPCSD, can claim that any approach or plan is 100% safe. Every decision is a question of risk mitigation. MPCSD mitigated risks well last year with our health and safety protocols; there was no on-campus spread and zero outbreaks. Those protocols continue this year.
Current Situation in SMC

While the headlines are alarming and the reality, even in California, is concerning. It’s helpful to have localized view of how COVID is impacting SMC.

- 90% of SMC residents 12+ y.o. are fully vaccinated.
- 68% of 12-17 y.o. SMC residents are fully vaccinated.
- SMC Case Rate is much lower than the national case rate.
- Alameda, Contra Costa, & SF Counties have 2x rate of SMC.
- Spread is largely among unvaccinated.
- Case rate is 6X greater for unvaccinated.
- Most severe symptoms are among unvaccinated adults.
- Most children in SMC tend to have mild to moderate symptoms.
- Dr. Morrow is clear--kids should be in school and it is safe enough to send them.

This is not data to celebrate; rather inform and contextualize.
Resources

Be sure to have reviewed the following documents prior to return.

- **MPCSD School Safety Plan:** Health & safety measures MPCSD will implement.

- **SMC Pandemic Recovery Framework:** Guiding document that informs MPCSD’s plan.

Both documents available at our new COVID Dashboard: district.mpcsd.org/COVID
COVID is a new reality. Even vaccines don’t make us 100% safe.

The Reality

People will get COVID.

Our goal is that they don’t contract COVID at school.

If they contract it, our goal is that it is identified before they attend school.

If they aren’t aware they are COVID positive until after they have attended school, our goal is that the health & safety guidelines ensure they don’t spread it.
Mitigating Risk - How You Can Help

- **Travel**: Please avoid unnecessary travel. If you travel please read the CDPH guidelines first. We aren’t following-up about travel this year.

- **Sleepovers and Playdates**: The amount of socialization families practice is different for each family. Remember that young children are still not vaccinated, and that outside is always safer than inside.

- **Public Interaction**: The public health-ordered limits on groups have ended. Please use common sense when taking your family in public, particularly crowded places. Masking, even outdoors, in crowds is a good idea.

- **Follow County Health & Safety Guidelines**: Wear a properly fitting face covering indoors, as San Mateo County’s health order mandates. Wash hands often. Stay home when not feeling well or exhibiting COVID-like symptoms. Alert MPCSD immediately if COVID positive.
Daily Health Screening & Absences

We are not requiring a health screen app OR on-campus temp checks. We ask parents to screen children for flu-like symptoms every day before school. Students with any of these symptoms should stay home. Report absences as usual with Safe Arrival.

Common Symptoms of COVID-19 (CDPH)

- Headache
- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Muscle or body aches
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
**Arrival & Pick-Up**

We ask that parents refrain from coming onto campus during drop-off and pick-up. Please use the carline or when walking/biking, meet your child at the edge of campus. Follow your school’s guidelines.

The one exception is the first day when we invite kinder and first grade families only to walk their students to the classroom if desired.
Health & Safety Protocols in Practice @ MPCSD
Vaccination

- Vaccination is not required in MPCSD, but is highly encouraged for staff and eligible students.
- Over 95% of staff fully vaccinated.
- We ask parents to confirm their students’ vaccination status; you will receive info from Hillview about this. When younger children are eligible, we will ask again.
- Parents who want to volunteer on campus will need to be vaccinated. See the Safety Plan to complete a short form if you are interested in volunteering. Safeter will invite you to affirm your vaccination status.
**Masks are required indoors for every child regardless of age. (Prior to start of school, please practice masking for extended time).**

**MPCSD will provide masks for students who forget them, lose them, or damage them at school.**

**IMPORTANT: Mask quality and mask fit matters!**

**No bandanas, masks with valves, or neck gaiters.**

**Proper mask use includes: covering both nose, mouth, and chin and NOT resting the mask on forehead or neck.**

**Teachers prepared to provide outdoor mask breaks for students.**
**Masking**

Science is clear: Masks work!

Spread is concerning: We need to take greater precaution to keep schools open.

**August 19-26:** Superintendent directing staff and students to mask outdoors except when at least 6-foot distance from others. However, no consequences for not following directive.

**August 26 & Beyond:** The Board will discuss and potentially vote on masking becoming mandatory within MPCSD outdoors until variant spread is controlled and/or children are eligible for vaccine. Should they vote to make it mandatory, failure to wear a mask outdoors will result in placement in RIS for students and discipline for staff.
Physical Distancing

- A minimum distance of three feet will be the target while indoors.
- Teachers will use “desk maps” and ask students to sit in the same desk each day. This will help us contact trace if/when a case is identified in a classroom.
- When outdoors, at least three-feet between students for eating or drinking will be enforced; otherwise no distancing mandates for outdoor play.
Gatherings

- Some gatherings are back: BTS welcome events, Speaker Series event, other school socials/events planned by sites. Indoor masking required, outdoor masking directed pending Board vote on potential mandate for MPCSD.

Ventilation

- MERV 13 filters, HEPA filters, doors/windows open.
- Encourage as much outside learning as practicable.
- Will move to @home learning if AQI over 150.
Hand Hygiene

● Students are expected to wash hands often for 20 seconds.
● Hand washing preferable to hand sanitizer, but hand sanitizer is ubiquitous in classrooms and common areas.
● Each classroom equipped with sink and hand washing supplies; outdoor sinks at all school sites.

Cleaning & Disinfecting

● Classrooms, bathrooms, all common indoor spaces will be cleaned/disinfected daily, including high-touch areas like door knobs, sink handles, etc.
● Lunch tables cleaned/sanitized before/after use.
● Area disinfected following a person sick with COVID being present.
Lunch & Recess

- Students will eat outside, a minimum of three-feet distanced, no face-to-face eating.
- Elementary classes will eat together. Middle school students may mix during lunch but must eat three feet apart, not facing each other.
- Lunch service is back – we’ll talk about that later.
- Students should wash hands before/after using playground equipment.
Cohorting

- Not addressed by PRF or CDPH.
- Elementary classes will stay together, attend assemblies together, eat together.
- Students may mix during recess and lunch – that’s why masking outdoors is still a good idea!

Visitors

- Permitted again on campus. Must be vaccinated if volunteering; see Safety Plan to complete interest form.
- Parents attending events as a parent do not need to show vaccination.
COVID Testing For Students and Staff

- MPCSD will use Gingko in partnership with CDPH for pooled COVID testing weekly for students and staff. See the Safety Plan for more details about Gingko and pooled testing.

- Weekly testing of students will begin week of August 23 and will be phased in over three weeks until everyone is testing weekly. Parents and staff will receive info and opt-in directions soon.

- If you don’t provide permission for your child to be tested at school, please find another location and have them tested at least every two weeks. Curative will be at its location across from MAHS at least for another six months, through February 2022.

- Students and staff should test regardless of vaccination status.
Contact tracing & Notification

- If your student or anyone in your household is COVID positive, notify your principal, site or district nurse or info@mpcsd.org right away.

- We will work with you to contact trace.

- Close contacts will be notified and given quarantine info. Modified quarantine this year - depends on vaccination and masking status. Please read Safety Plan and PRF. There is a helpful chart in both documents. Goal is to prioritize in-person school, limit whole class quarantine.

- When there is a positive case at a school, the school community will be notified.
MPCSD is not monitoring or following-up. Please familiarize yourself with CDPH travel guidelines. They are in the Safety Plan and PRF.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domestic Travel</th>
<th>Not Vaccinated</th>
<th>Fully Vaccinated</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Get tested 1-3 days before travel</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get tested 3-5 days after travel and self-quarantine for 7 days. Self-quarantine for 10 days if you don’t get tested.</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-monitor for symptoms</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wear a mask and take other precautions during travel</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>International Travel</th>
<th>Not Vaccinated</th>
<th>Fully Vaccinated</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Get tested 1-3 days before traveling out of the US</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mandatory test required before flying to US</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get tested 3-5 days after travel</td>
<td>✓</td>
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Special Education (IEP & 504 Plans)

- In general, Special Education services will be provided on campus, in person. Please read the Safety Plan Section 6: Special Education & 504 Accommodation.

- Some meetings may take place virtually; your Case Manager will work with you.

Technology

- With the return of full-time, in-person learning, technology will be used to support learning following our usual model.

- Catalytic use in grades 3+, 1:1 devices in grades 6-8.

- Any on-campus tech use will include devices for students to use.

- If you need a deceive and/or wifi hot spot, email your Assistant Principal.
Lunch Service

- Lunch service on campus is back, and it’s FREE! Order through The LunchMaster. Daily options will include salads, sandwiches, wraps. Our lunch provider is The LunchMaster.

- **August 19-September 6**: Pick up weekly box at Encinal carline 4-6 PM.

- **September 7 and beyond**: Daily service on campus returns.

- We need **YOU**! The daily lunch program is only possible with our incredible team of volunteers. If you are vaccinated and willing to give some time to serve our kids, please let your school lunch volunteer coordinator know. Names and emails in the Safety Plan, Section 8 Lunch Services.

THANK YOU!

- Families who qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch may also be eligible for weekend boxes and daily breakfast. Email Flor Espinal with questions.
Transportation

- MPCSD will run its neighborhood school bus routes this year. Sign up at our [Transportation page](#).
- Masks required on buses. No physical distancing enforced, but windows open.
- SamTrans also back. See [their website](#) for route maps.
Would we ever return to Distance Learning?

- **5+% positivity within 14 days:** Like last year, a school would close if 5% or more of students & staff test positive within 14 days.

- **Air quality:** If AQI over 150, we will move to @home learning until air clears. See [Safety Plan](#) for more details.

- Board is not going to take ill-advised risk. Public health officers could instate new guidelines if cases significantly worsen.

- This still applies:

  [It’s a DIAL not a SWITCH](#)

  The model can change as the conditions and directives change. *It’s not static; it’s dynamic.*
Questions?
info@mpcsd.org