

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Policies

MVCS places the highest priority on the health, safety, and well-being of our community, while protecting the continuity of academic programs. This policy includes the measures we are actively taking to mitigate the spread of coronavirus. Please follow all these rules diligently, to sustain a healthy and safe school. It is important that we all respond responsibly and transparently to these health precautions. We will treat your private health and personal data with high confidentiality and sensitivity.

This policy is susceptible to changes with the introduction of additional governmental guidelines. If so, we will update you as soon as possible by email. At this point in time the State of Vermont Agency of Education expects all schools to observe CDC Step II guidelines. "Schools are open for in-person instruction with enhanced physical distancing measures..."

This coronavirus policy applies to all MVCS students and families. These are required actions to protect students, families, faculty, and staff from a potential coronavirus infection.

All students and families are urged:

- To take basic preventive measures to avoid exposure to or infection by the virus causing COVID-19.
- To use good hygiene, facial coverings, and social distancing.
- To consider your risk for complications from COVID-19 due to underlying health conditions. You are urged to consult your physician about steps you can take to protect your health. These may include requesting to temporarily be schooled at home, or some creative answer to reduce your exposure to others or chances of being infected. A doctor's note or other appropriation documentation will be required to support the request.
- To carefully consider the impact to the school when planning trips and engaging with others.

Measures we will actively take to mitigate the spread of coronavirus:

- Daily health check on all coming into the building
 - Ask: Have you been in close contact with a person who has COVID-19?
 - Ask: Do you feel unwell with any symptoms consistent with COVID-19?
 - Conduct temperature screening
- Anyone answering affirmative or have a temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees F must not enter the building (if daily health check is outside) or remain in the building (if daily health check is inside). All parents will wait for check and will take students if fail check.
- Facial coverings are required while in the buildings, as well as outside where physical distancing cannot be maintained. (Frequent mask breaks will occur.)
- Handwashing or use of hand sanitizer will be required upon arrival at any school building, after eating, after coughing or sneezing,

- All staff will be trained in proper cleaning and disinfecting.
- All students will be trained in proper cleaning and disinfecting to do so when appropriate:
 - To clean spaces they have used
 - To clean materials they have used
- Frequently touched surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected before and during school:
 - Eating surfaces
 - Bathrooms
 - Equipment
 - Door handles
 - Handrails
 - Anything placed in the mouth
 - Metal and plastic playground equipment
- Student belongings will be kept separated and used items should be taken home each day and cleaned.
- Sharing of materials will be minimized.
- Students and teachers will be spaced at least 6 feet apart if possible.
- Assigned seating will be used for each class.
- Preparing for contact tracing:
 - Attendance, including any other person in the classroom will be kept.
 - Records will be kept on anyone entering the buildings.
 - All staff will be encouraged to keep a contact journal.
- Libraries, lounge areas, hallways, and the connector will not be areas to congregate.
- Singing, woodwind & brass instruments, and cheering should be avoided.
- All ventilation fans will remain on.
- Signs will be posted on how to:
 - Stop the spread of COVID-19
 - Properly wash hands
 - Promote everyday protective measures
 - Move throughout the buildings

Schooling at home:

- Unless registered for remote learning or **Live!** Online-Learning all students are expected to be at school.
- There may be times when a student, class or the whole school may move to at home schooling. Whole school is dependent on consultation with the Vermont Department of Health and Agency of Education
- You may be exposed, become infected, have compromising health issues, or live in a family with compromising health issues. This may prompt a request to be schooled at home. Make requests to the Head of School to make plan and set expectations.

- If you have a positive COVID-19 diagnosis, you can return to school only after you have fully recovered. (or the current Department of Health directives).

General hygiene rules:

- Wash your hands after using the toilet, before eating, and if you cough/sneeze into your hands (follow the 20-second hand-washing rule). You can also use hand sanitizer.
- Cough/sneeze into your sleeve, preferably into your elbow. If you use a tissue, discard it properly and clean/sanitize your hands immediately.
- If you find yourself coughing/sneezing on a regular basis, avoid close physical contact with your colleagues and students, and take extra precautionary measures (such as requesting sick leave).
- Open the windows regularly to ensure open ventilation.
- Avoid touching your face, particularly eyes, nose, and mouth with your hands to prevent from getting infected.
- Follow social distancing rules.
- Wear a facial covering.

COVID-19 Screening, Return to School and Isolation Policies

This portion is adapted from the CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/symptom-screening.html>

1. Daily Home Screening for Students

Parents: Please complete this short check each morning.(Students will be screened upon arrive at school also.)

- Has your student been in close contact with a person who has COVID-19?
- Does your feel unwell with any symptoms consistent with COVID-19?
- Conduct temperature screening

SECTION 1: Symptoms

If your child has any of the following symptoms, that indicates a possible illness that may decrease the student's ability to learn and also put them at risk for spreading illness to others. Please check your child for these symptoms:

- Temperature 100.4° F or higher when taken by mouth
- Sore throat
- **New** uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (for students with chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline)
- Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain

- New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever

SECTION 2: Close Contact/Potential Exposure

- Had close contact (within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) with a person with confirmed COVID-19
- Traveled to an area where the local, Tribal, territorial, or state health department is reporting large numbers of COVID-19 cases as described in the [Community Mitigation Framework](#)

2. Return-to-School Policies

- If the student or parent answers YES to any question in Section 1 but NO to any questions in Section 2, the student would be excused from school in accordance with existing school illness management policy (e.g., until symptom-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medications).
- If the student or parent answers YES to any question in Section 1 and YES to any question in Section 2, the student should be referred for evaluation by their healthcare provider and possible testing. Students who have received a negative test result are allowed to return to school once their symptoms have otherwise improved in accordance with existing school illness management policies.
- Students diagnosed with COVID-19 or who answer YES to any question in Section 1 and YES to any question in Section 2 without negative test results should
 - stay home, isolate themselves from others, monitor their health, and follow directions from their state or local health department. Students and their families should be advised that the local health department may contact the family for contact tracing. If contacted, families should notify the contract tracer that the student attended school.
 - return to school should be in line with current CDC recommendations:

You can be around others after:

- 10 days since symptoms first appeared **and**
- 24 hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
- COVID-19 symptoms have improved (for example, cough, shortness of breath)

Most people do not require testing to decide when they can be around others; however, if your healthcare provider recommends testing, they will let you know when you can resume being around others based on your test results.

Note that these recommendations **do not** apply to persons with severe COVID-19 or with severely weakened immune systems (immunocompromised). These persons should follow the guidance below for “I was severely ill with COVID-19 or have a severely weakened immune system (immunocompromised) due to a health condition or medication. When can I be around others?”

Students who are excluded from school can, as they are able, participate in classwork, to make up any missed classwork without penalty in order to reduce mental or physical anxieties about missed academic opportunities.

3. School Isolation Protocols for Onset of Illness at School

Some students may develop symptoms of infectious illness while at school. MVCS will take action to keep students who develop symptoms comfortable and isolated from other students and staff.

- For students with any of the symptoms in Section 1 we will follow our current illness management policy to minimize transmission to others, to optimize learning opportunities, and to allow for these symptoms to resolve (at least 24 hours without fever reducing medications or in accordance with existing school illness policy).
- Students identified at school who develop any of the symptoms in Section 1 AND answer YES to any of the questions in Section 2 will be placed in an isolation area separate from staff and other students and then sent home. After the student is placed in an isolation area, school staff who work in the isolation area will clean and disinfect the area.