

**2021-2022**

LAST UPDATED:  
SEPTEMBER 23, 2021



# COVID Information For Families

## SCHOOL

Montessori Regional Charter School

## SUPERINTENDENT

Chief Executive Officer: Mark Zielinski



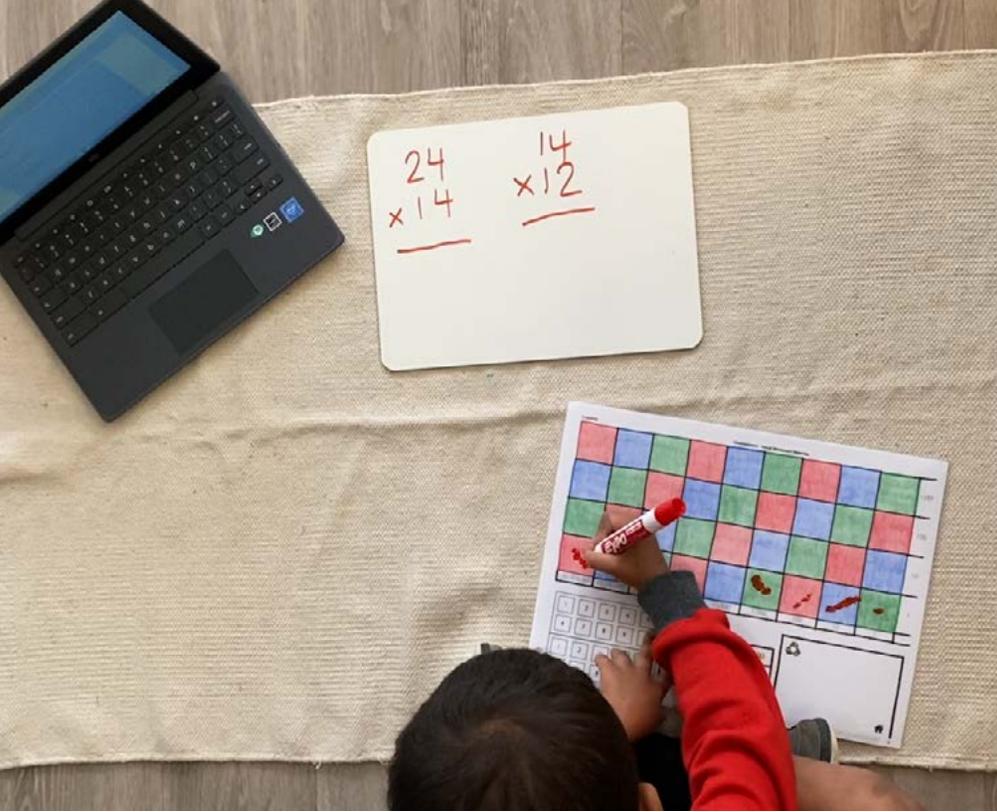
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# Overview

Montessori Regional Charter School will follow the guidance of the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Pennsylvania Department of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control on all matters related to COVID-19. MRCS will update its Health and Safety Plan as guidelines are changed.

# Screening for Symptoms

In order to ensure the safety of all of our students, staff and families, **it is important to keep your child home and contact your health care provider if they are experiencing any of the following symptoms:** (These can range from mild, cold-like symptoms to severe)

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea



**This list does not include all possible symptoms, so please consult this webpage:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

## **PLEASE NOTIFY THE SCHOOL NURSE IMMEDIATELY IF:**

- You or your child schedule a COVID test or are waiting for results
- You or anyone in your household has a positive COVID test
- Your child has been identified as a close contact to someone with COVID

# Mitigation/Prevention Strategies



3 - Foot  
Distancing



Universal  
Masking



Bipolar  
Ionization



Frequent Handwashing and  
Hand Sanitizing Breaks



Nightly Disinfecting of  
Classrooms

# Handwashing

## Key Times to Wash Your Hands

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### BEFORE:

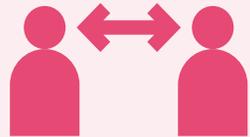
- Eating or preparing food
- Touching your face

### AFTER:

- Using the restroom
- Coughing or sneezing
- Leaving a public place
- Handling cloth face covering
- Caring for someone sick
- Touching animals or pets



# Close Contacts



A close contact is anyone who is within 6 feet of the positive case for 15 minutes or more.



For K-12 students, if the students are spaced 3-6 feet apart, wearing their masks properly and consistently, they will not be identified as close contacts and will not need to quarantine.

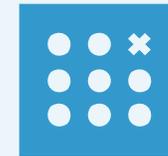
# Close Contact Scenarios

CASE MASKED	Vaccinated Unmasked	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get tested 2-5 days following exposure, even if they don't have symptoms;</li> <li>• Wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative;</li> <li>• Isolate for 10 days if their test result is positive.</li> </ul>
	Vaccinated Masked	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Student Exception:</b> If close contact of 3-6 feet occurs when both are wearing masks properly, no action necessary.</li> <li>• <b>All Others:</b> Get tested 2-5 days following exposure, even if they don't have symptoms;</li> <li>• Wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative;</li> <li>• Isolate for 10 days if their test result is positive.</li> </ul>
	Unvaccinated Unmasked	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarantine at home.</li> </ul>
	Unvaccinated masked	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Student Exception:</b> If close contact of 3-6 feet occurs when both are wearing masks properly, no action necessary.</li> <li>• <b>All Others:</b> Quarantine at home</li> </ul>
CASE UNMASKED	Vaccinated Unmasked	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get tested 2-5 days following exposure, even if they don't have symptoms;</li> <li>• Wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative;</li> <li>• Isolate for 10 days if their test result is positive.</li> </ul>
	Vaccinated Masked	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get tested 2-5 days following exposure, even if they don't have symptoms;</li> <li>• Wear a mask indoors in public for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative;</li> <li>• Isolate for 10 days if their test result is positive.</li> </ul>
	Unvaccinated Unmasked	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarantine at home.</li> </ul>
	Unvaccinated masked	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarantine at home.</li> </ul>

# Contact Tracing



If a positive case is identified within the school, the school nurse will determine who would be considered a close contact.



Classroom, cafeteria and bus seating charts will be used in the contact tracing process.

# Notification

- MRCS works very closely with the Erie County Department of Health in determining close contacts and notifying families. MRCS will only notify the staff and the families of students if they are identified as a close contact.
- Students who are required to quarantine, will be sent home and they will receive additional information from the school nurse.
- Please be assured if there is an incident that involves your child as a close contact, you will be directly contacted by the school nurse.

# Quarantine/Isolation

- If your child is required to quarantine, you will be contacted by the school nurse. She will outline the specific dates for quarantine or isolation, and their return to school.
  - The current length of quarantine for a close contact is 10 days, in the case of a household contact that time period will be longer.
  - Isolation for a positive case will be 10 days.
- After you have spoken to the school nurse, you will be contacted by MRCS administration to discuss how to get set up for the virtual classroom during the quarantine period.
- Students will be allowed to return after being identified as a close contact when: their quarantine period is complete, AND as long as they have not developed symptoms or tested positive during that time.
- Students will be allowed to return after a positive test when: their isolation period is complete, AND they are fever free for 24 hours without medication AND are symptom free.

# Testing



## [Erie County Testing Sites](#)

- Any student who is experiencing symptoms will be required to have a COVID test before being allowed to return to school. If you choose not to have your child tested, they will need to quarantine at home for 10 days from their symptom onset.
- It is also recommended that any close contact is tested 2-5 days after exposure.
- If your child is being tested, any siblings that also go to MRCS must stay home until test results are received.
- At home tests will not be accepted.

# Face Coverings

- Per the Pennsylvania Department of Health Mandate, all students and staff must wear masks while indoors at school regardless of vaccination status.
- Students and staff will be allowed to remove their masks outdoors when socially distanced.
- Please ensure that your child is ready to ride the bus with a mask and to enter the building with a mask.

 [What to Know About Kids and Masks](#)

 [Erie County Mask Mandate](#)

 [Erie County Mask Mandate Amendment](#)

 [Order of the Acting Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Directing Face Coverings in School Entities](#)

## DO choose masks that



Have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric



Completely cover your nose and mouth



Fit snugly against the sides of your face and don't have gaps



Have a nose wire to prevent air from leaking out of the top of the mask



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[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://cdc.gov/coronavirus)

# Cleaning & Disinfecting

Cleaning of all common area surfaces 3 times a day (door handles, handrails, switches, phones, water fountains, and bathrooms)

**IN ADDITION, ALL CLASSROOMS WILL BE  
DISINFECTED NIGHTLY**

# Bussing

## [Transportation Mask Mandate](#)

- All students will be required to wear masks on school transportation.
- Please ensure that your child is ready to ride the bus with a mask and to enter the building with a mask.



# Attendance



Students who are waiting for test results, or have been instructed to quarantine or isolate at home will have their absences marked as medical.



Please send all COVID test results to the school nurse and the attendance office.

# Additional Links & Resources

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### School Nurse | Meredith Lilly

 814-833-7771, ext. 111  [mlilly@mrcserie.org](mailto:mlilly@mrcserie.org)

### Attendance

 [attendance@mrcserie.org](mailto:attendance@mrcserie.org)

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 [Erie County: COVID-19](#)

 [Quarantine K-12 Schools](#)

 [CDC: COVID-19](#)

 [Resources for Families and Children](#)

 [Early Warning Dashboard](#)

 [What to Expect: K-12 Schools](#)

**Thank you for your continued support and flexibility as we adapt to the new conditions and work creatively to make this school year a success!**

