

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Will K-12 teachers and staff wear face coverings?**

Yes. Teachers will wear masks during the day. For certain lessons/content areas a teacher may switch to a face shield. In addition, some teachers will have plexiglass workstations.

- **Will K-12 students be required to wear face coverings?**

Yes. Students will be required to wear a cloth face covering. Face coverings can be removed when eating and on a case by case basis when the child needs a break. Teachers will make sure that is done safely. Teachers will work with younger children to teach and encourage them to use their masks appropriately.

For a small number of children with special needs, wearing a mask might not be possible. School leaders, teachers and families will discuss the issue of masks before the child comes to school.

You can learn more about masks here:

https://www.msd281.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_200037/File/COVID%2019%20Info%202020-21/Health%20and%20Safety/MSD%20Mask_Face%20Covering%20Guidelines%202020_2021.pdf

- **Will the school have face coverings available if needed?**

Yes. The school will have a supply of disposable masks, reusable masks, and face shields (for approved conditions). Students are encouraged to bring their own face masks from home. We encourage families to help children find face masks that are comfortable, colorful, and creative. The school will happily accept donations of child-sized cloth masks and/or disposable face masks.

- **Will added sanitary and cleaning practices be implemented?**

Yes. Additional cleaning protocols have been put in place. Classrooms will be cleaned multiple times a day, and on Wednesdays and Fridays an even more thorough cleaning will take place.

Most classrooms have sinks, where regular hand washing will take place, and all classrooms will have supplies of hand sanitizer.

New sanitary practices will be implemented on the busses as well.

Other safety measures are also being implemented such as using the Hybrid model to reduce the number of students in classrooms and other areas to allow for social distancing.

- **Will students need to be screened before entering the building?**

Yes. Families will screen students before they come to school. Staff will self-screen. If students present with symptoms at school parents will be notified and asked to come pick up their child.

More information can be found here:

https://www.msd281.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_200037/File/COVID%2019%20Info%202020-21/Health%20and%20Safety/HS_screening_exclusion_return.pdf

https://www.msd281.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_200037/File/COVID%2019%20Info%202020-21/Health%20and%20Safety/HSC_exclusion_return%20algorithm.pdf

- **Will students be spaced apart to lower the risk of transmission?**

Yes. Students will be spaced apart in classrooms, hallways, and other places in the school.

Will the school limit gatherings of large groups?

Yes. School wide assemblies will be eliminated until deemed safe again. Precautions are put in place to minimize students gathering in the hallways and other congested areas.

- **How many students will be in each class?**

The exact number will vary from school to school and class to class. You could expect anywhere from 8 - 13 students per classroom.

- **Will movement be limited throughout the school building?**

Yes. Necessary movements for academic need will still take place. However, students will be limited on entering other classrooms, hallways, office spaces unless deemed vital.

- **Will classes be held outside or in alternative spaces to allow for more distancing?**

Maybe. This is more feasible for some classes than others. The HS, for example, does not have enough outside space to hold all their classes outside. PE classes, though, in all schools, will try to be outside as much as possible, weather permitting.

- **How will the schools facilitate fresh air circulation or air filtration?**

The existing ventilation systems in each school will be adjusted so that they are continually circulating fresh air from outside into classrooms

- **Will bus transportation services be provided?**

Yes. All bus routes are being changed to allow for social distancing on the bus. There will be one child per seat on the busses unless a sibling rides the same bus. Siblings will share a seat. There will be assigned seating on every bus.

If your child is going to ride the bus, please call the bus garage at 208-882-3933 and let them know to add you to a route.

Extra cleaning and sanitizing protocols have been put in place for busses.

- **Will school lunch services be available?**

Yes. Schools will serve school lunches. These lunches will be individually packaged so that students can simply grab and go.

We hope to be able to provide lunch to students on their remote learning days. This is our goal and are still working out the details of how to make that possible.

- **Where will hybrid students eat lunch?**

They will eat in the cafeteria. Lunch schedules have been modified so that the number of students in the cafeteria at one time is greatly reduced, allowing us to seat students six feet apart.

- **Will MHS have an open campus for lunch?**

Yes.

- **Will students still be allowed to participate in music, art, and physical education courses?**

Hybrid Model: Yes.

Elementary: Students will follow a close to typical daily schedule that includes time with specialists including music and P.E.

Secondary: Students attending in-building classes will have a full schedule that includes electives and P.E. Music classes will follow specific health and safety protocols.

Online-only: Maybe

Elementary: Yes, specialists such as Music and P.E. will be part of the student's online schedule.

Secondary: Middle School online-only students will only take 5 core classes: Math, English Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, and P.E. "Clubs" will allow online only students to participate and stay in touch with elective activities without the worry of earning a grade for the class.

High school students might need credits from elective classes to graduate. Those students will work with school counselors to make sure they are registered for the classes they need.

- **What will happen if state or local health officials' close school again?**

We will go into another soft closure. Last spring, it was an unprecedented and unexpected event. We are now much better prepared for that possibility.

- **If schools switch to fully online, will they switch back to hybrid if the threat level goes down?**

We will consider our options if and when that time comes, working closely with local health professionals and city and state officials.

- **What will happen if a student or staff member tests positive?**

Students and Staff members that test positive will convalesce and quarantine at home. Contact tracing will be done, and appropriate people will be contacted. The MSD Positive Case Plan can be found here:

https://msd281.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_200037/File/COVID%2019%20Info%2020-21/Health%20and%20Safety/Updated%20MSD%20Positive%20Case%20Plan.pdf

https://www.msd281.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_200037/File/COVID%2019%20Info%2020-21/Health%20and%20Safety/HSC_exclusion_return%20algorithm.pdf

- **What can families do to prepare students for school reopening September 14th?**

Make sure your child has at least one mask or face covering. They will also need a water bottle with their name on it.

All students and staff will be required to wear masks. Drinking fountains are being converted to water-bottle fillers wherever possible, and other water fountains will be closed. Your child needs to bring a full bottle of water with them to school each day.

- **Will there be back-to-school night? Or an opportunity to meet the teachers?**

Yes, but they will look different than they have in the past. School principals are creating plans for their specific schools and will be letting parents know about those plans soon.

- **Will school supply lists be made available for Hybrid Learning and Full-Online Learning?**

Yes. These will be made available as soon as they are ready. Check your email and your school's website or Facebook page for updates.

- **When and how do I register my student for Full Online learning?**

Call or email your child's school(s) ASAP to register them for the online-only option. The deadline was August 17th but building administrators might be able to accommodate your request.

- **When will families find out about teacher assignments (for online and hybrid)?**

Classroom assignments for elementary students will be announced on Friday, August 28th at the end of the day. Secondary students: Building leaders and counselors are working on this project now and will let you know when schedules are complete. You can expect to get an update about class schedules by September 9th.

- **What are attendance expectations for full-online students? For hybrid students on their remote days?**

Attendance will be taken every day for online-only students. Attendance will be taken on both the in-person days and on remote learning days for students on the Hybrid schedule. Students are expected to be engaged in learning activities on their remote learning days.

The school board is meeting on August 26th to review a revised attendance policy. The scheduling/calendar/attendance subcommittee has provided recommendations regarding attendance policy to the board.

- **When and how can full-online students choose to return for in-person options?**

Online-only students can choose to rejoin in-person classes at the start of second semester, which is in January. They should contact their child's school as that date approaches.

- **Can students who want to switch to full-online after school starts do so?**

Maybe. It will depend on the grade level and class. If the class is already full, then it will not be possible to switch. In some cases, there might be room in online-only sections. Contact your child's school to get more information.

- **How will ISAT and other standardized tests work for online students?**

Some beginning of the school year assessments might need to be done, especially at the elementary level. Schools will contact families with more information. ISATs are administered in the spring. Last year, the State of Idaho did not administer the ISAT. We

don't know yet what they will decide about this upcoming school year. The ISAT testing window for this school year is March 15 – May 14, 2021.

- **Can parent volunteers help at the schools?**

Maybe. We are limiting the number of people in our schools, in an effort to keep kids and staff as safe as possible. Contact your child's school to find out how you can help during this challenging time. We appreciate your willingness to volunteer your time.

- **Special Education students - how will it work for my special needs' child?**

Students with Individual Education Plans can choose either option. Staff and school leaders will be contacting every family with a student with an IEP to discuss updates to the child's IEP that relate to COVID and, in the true spirit of individualized instruction, create a plan to fit the unique and individual needs of the student.

- **What type of structural changes have been implemented – physical distancing of desks, sneeze guards, HVAC system, etc.?**

We have grouped the students into two smaller cohorts to reduce the number of students in the building. Classroom spaces are being reworked to allow for social distancing. Sneeze guards have been made for every classroom and are being installed in high traffic areas, such as the office. New safety protocols have been created for other shared spaces such as hallways and lunchrooms to ensure physical distancing. Hand sanitizer will be distributed to classrooms as well as disinfecting cleaners and supplies. The HVAC system will now continuously circulate fresh air from outside into classrooms. Details can be found on the MSD website.

More information can be found here:

https://msd281.org/reopening_our_schools/health_and_safety

- **Will classrooms be disinfected before and after class? Will desks be wiped down?**

Yes. Classrooms will be cleaned and sanitized every day. Teachers will clean surfaces between classes and throughout the day. The maintenance crews will thoroughly clean every building between the A and B groups on Wednesdays and Fridays.

- **How will distancing be achieved during transition class to class?**

This will vary by age. Transitions between school spaces will look different than it has in the past, these protocols will be modified to allow for social distancing.

- **Are all classes going to be taught? Including electives or only core classes?**

Students choosing the Hybrid option will have a full schedule, including electives. Online-only elementary students will have specialists, such as music and P.E. in their

online-only schedule. Middle school students will take 5 core classes with electives offered as “clubs.” High school students that need elective credits to graduate will work out a schedule with school counselors.

- **Will kids have temperature checks at school?**

Students will not have their temperature checked at school unless they are exhibiting symptoms. Parents are expected to screen their children, and check their temperatures, before sending them to school.