



# **Marion County Schools**

## **2020-2021**

### **Reentry**

# **Parent/Student Guide**

Updated December 3, 2020

### **Marion County Schools Reentry Goals**

- Students have regular touchpoints, personal touchpoints with teachers and/or other school staff to check-in on their basic needs, social-emotional well-being, academic needs, and needed support for dealing with reentry.
- Students have regular touchpoints with their classmates to continue to build community.
- Students engage in learning experiences planned for and delivered by Marion County teachers using high-quality curriculum that are targeted to their specific learning needs as well as the major work of the grade.
- Students are provided flexible, meaningful learning experiences to support school closure and/or distance learning.

### **Marion County Schools Reentry**

Marion County Schools will follow the approved 2020-2021 school calendar. Registration for the 2020-2021 school year will occur prior to August 10, 2020. The first full day of school is August 10, 2020. Parents/guardians will have the option of their student attending school or participating in remote learning. Students attending school will follow the normal 5 day school schedule. Students participating in remote learning will participate in a 5 day schedule that will include direct instruction from Marion County educators. Marion County Schools will be implementing a flexible hybrid instructional model that can be scaled to meet the demands of the time.

#### **Registration**

Marion County Schools will host a virtual or drive-up registration event prior to the first full day of school, August 10<sup>th</sup>. Individual schools will send out information concerning school specific registration events. All students will be required to participate in registration events, both students receiving on-site instruction and participating in distance learning.

#### **Transportation**

Marion County Schools is encouraging, when possible, for students to be transported to school via private transportation. School buses will run regular routes and transport all students that require transportation. The following requirements will be in place for school bus transportation:

- students will wash/sanitize hands prior to boarding the bus
- bus drivers and students will wear cloth face coverings on the bus and at bus stops
- assigned seats for students
- siblings or students from the same household will sit together
- buses will be sanitized daily
- windows will be left open when weather permits to improve ventilation
- buses will load back to front and unload front to back when possible

#### **School Drop-Off/Pick-Up**

Schools will create a drop-off plan that will be communicated to parents/guardians. The plan will be designed to increase social distancing as much as possible.

School Drop-Off Plans will include the following

- Students will be actively screened before entering the building. Active screening will include temperature checks and screening questions.
- Students will be required to wear a cloth face covering to school
- School Visitors will be strictly limited. Visitors will be required to wear a cloth face covering and undergo active screening.

### **School Day – On-Site Instruction**

The school day will be designed to reduce exposure between students and staff. The school day plan will include the following:

- Staff and students will be required to wear cloth face coverings during transition times, which includes but not limited to: drop off, pick up, and class changes.
- Staff and students are encouraged to wear cloth face coverings during class time but not required.
- Breakfast served in classrooms
- Students K-8 will not rotate classes, teachers will rotate classrooms.
- Students 9-12 will rotate classes, schools will create a staggered class change schedule to reduce the number of individuals in the hallways.
- Classrooms will be organized to increase social distancing as much as possible.
- Locker use will be suspended and students will be required to take personal items home each day for cleaning.
- Bathrooms will be closed during transition times. Bathroom breaks will be scheduled during class time.
- Water fountains and vending machines will be closed. Students will be encouraged to bring water from home.
- Classrooms and hallways will be marked for social distancing and contain signs that encourage good hygiene.
- Lunch will occur in the classroom and other areas of the school that allow social distancing.
- Classrooms will be disinfected at least three times a day.
- Students will sanitize/wash hands during all class changes.

### **School Day – Distance Learning**

Parents/guardians will have the choice of their student participating in remote learning. Parents/guardians are required to complete a MCS Remote Learning Application by July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Once an application is submitted and accepted, the student will participate in remote learning for the fall semester of the 2020 school year (August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021).

Distance Learning:

- Students participating in distance learning will be required to participate in daily scheduled instruction through the use of technology. ZOOM will be used as the platform for direct instruction. District Streaming Teachers will provide direct instruction to all students participating in distance learning.
- Attendance will be taken daily and all attendance policies and laws apply.

- Students will submit assignments and participate in further instruction with their teacher of record through Google Classroom, ZOOM meetings, phone calls, curricular resources, and other avenues of communication. The teacher of record will grade student assignments and assign the course grade.
- Students will be encouraged to use personal devices to access instruction. Students without access to a device will be provided one by the district. The student is responsible for the condition and return of the device.
- Students without internet access will be provided weekly recorded instruction and lessons. The parent/guardian will communicate with the school and schedule a time to pick-up and drop-off videos and assignments. If a district device is used, the student will be required to bring the device each week.
- Once identified as a distance learning student, the distance learning packet will be provided.

### **Identifying COVID-19**

Students, parents/guardians, and staff will receive information and training concerning the signs and symptoms of COVID-19. All stakeholders are required to stay home and notify the school if an individual has symptoms of COVID-19.

#### Most Common Signs and Symptoms

- Fever equal to or great than 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit
- Cough
- Shortness of Breath

#### Other Possible Signs and Symptoms

- Diarrhea
- Abdominal pain (especially in children)
- Malaise
- Fatigue
- Rash
- Loss of taste or smell

### **If symptoms are identified at school – Plan of Action:**

- Immediately place a cloth face covering or surgical mask on the ill individual and move them to the identified safe area to isolate the individual.
- Individuals assisting will put on a cloth face covering or a surgical mask, eye protections, a gown and gloves. Limit the number of people who are in direct contact with the ill individual.
- Ensure the individual is safe and does not need emergent medical attention. If the individual appears to be seriously ill, call 911 and inform them that you are calling about a possible/confirmed case of COVID-19.

- Notify the emergency contact of the ill individual. If the individual is deemed stable, ask that they be picked up from school. If the individual requires emergency medical attention, call 911 and inform them of the situation.
- The Marion County Schools Health Director will be notified and will be in communication with the Marion Health Department to notify them of a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19.
- Clean and disinfect areas where the ill individual has been while in the building.

**Communication Plan:**

- Staff or students exposed to or in contact with an individual with COVID-19 will be contacted via phone call within 24 hours of the school being notified.
- Exposure defined as individual who has had close contact (< 6 feet) for ≥15 minutes.
  - Person with COVID-19 who has symptoms (in the period from 2 days before symptom onset until they meet criteria for discontinuing home isolation; can be laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness)
  - Person who has tested positive for COVID-19 (laboratory confirmed) but has not had any symptoms (in the 2 days before the date of specimen collection until they meet criteria for discontinuing home isolation).

**Return to school:**

- Any student or staff who exhibits symptoms consistent with COVID-19 are to be masked and isolated immediately and sent home as quickly as possible.
- Any student or staff who stays home sick or is sent home, goes home, or is told not to report the following day but are not experiencing COVID-19 symptoms
  - May return to school if they are fever and symptom free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.
  - Individuals with symptoms of COVID-19
    - Tested for COVID-19
      - Negative Test – May return to school if fever and symptom free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.
      - Positive Test – 10 day quarantine
    - Not tested for COVID-19
      - Visit medical professional – May return to school with a medical professional’s note and if you are fever and symptom free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.
      - 10 day quarantine
- Exposure to a confirmed case of COVID-19
  - Quarantine can end after Day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been reported during daily monitoring.  
OR
  - Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen tests negative and if no symptoms were reported during daily monitoring. The specimen may be collected and tested within 48 hours before (Day 5) the time of planned quarantine discontinuation, but quarantine cannot be discontinued earlier than after Day 7.

## **Mitigating Spread of COVID-19**

Facilitate Contact Tracing: Contact Marion County Health Department as soon as you are made aware of a suspect or confirmed case of COVID-19.

- Assist the health department in identifying individual exposed to the infected individual
- Exposed individuals will be required to self-quarantine until meeting criteria addressed in section above.
- Exposure defined as individual who has had close contact (< 6 feet) for ≥15 minutes.
  - o Person with COVID-19 who has symptoms (in the period from 2 days before symptom onset until they meet criteria for discontinuing home isolation; can be laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness)
  - o Person who has tested positive for COVID-19 (laboratory confirmed) but has not had any symptoms (in the 2 days before the date of specimen collection until they meet criteria for discontinuing home isolation)

## **Distance Learning Threshold**

Marion County Schools will provide distance learning as soon as a student(s) self-quarantines.

- All students and staff who have been in contact with a confirmed case will self-quarantine until meeting criteria addressed in section above.
- Distance learning will be provided to all students in self-quarantine.
- Marion County will consider closing a school if
  - o 20 % of classroom cohorts are required to quarantine within a 14-day period.
  - o cluster cases are identified and the infection spread from the clusters cannot be confidently contained.
  - o there is widespread exposure of students and staff such that it is not possible to identify and quarantine contacts.
  - o in consultation with state and local health care officials.
  - o the absentee rates is 20%
  - o If a school or the district is closed, it will remain closed for 10 days from the time of closure in order to ensure students and staff have been quarantined through the COVID-19 incubation period. Once the 14-day quarantine period has expired, the school or district will consider re-opening so long as community transmission is not high. The district will consult with state and local public health officials prior to deciding to resume in-person instruction.

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## **Athletics**

Marion County Schools will follow the guidance of the TSSAA and local and state government.

**Extracurricular Activities**

Students will be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities if they meet the attendance requirements in on-site or remote instruction.

The COVID-19 Reentry Plan will be in place for the duration of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Procedures and policies will be revised upon recommendations by government agencies.