



MCMS COVID-19

Frequently Asked Questions

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What should I do if my student tests positive for COVID-19?

If your MCMS student has been tested for COVID-19 and receives a positive test result, you should send an email to Interim Head of School Erin Freiberg at headofschool@madisoncommunitymontessori.org as soon as you can – to protect our school community, this should be one of the first steps you take, no matter the time of day or night. Please provide the following information: date of test, date of test result, whether your student is symptomatic or not and what the symptoms are, and any known close contacts your child had while at school. A close contact is defined as someone who:

- Was within 6 feet of a person who has COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more (cumulatively, not sustained) within a 24-hour period. It doesn't matter if the individuals are masked or not, indoors or outdoors.
- Had direct physical contact with a person who has COVID-19
- Had contact with the respiratory secretions of a person who has COVID-19 case (for example, coughed or sneezed on; picked up a dirty tissue or mask; shared a drinking glass, food, towels, or other personal items).
- Lives with a person who has COVID-19, or stayed overnight for at least one night in a household with them.

Sending an email to Ms. Erin sets our COVID-19 incident response plan in motion. Please do not reach out to your child's teacher or other staff, as it can cause confusion over who is responsible for follow-up and communications and slow down our ability to respond.

What should I do if my student has symptoms of COVID-19?

Every day that your child attends school in-person (whether at MCMS or Learning Out), you must take your child's temperature and complete [the daily health screener](#) prior to 7:45 am. Certain symptoms will require your child to be kept home from school. MCMS follows the exclusion guidance of Public Health Madison and Dane County, which states that your child must be kept home for 10 days from the onset of symptoms for any one of

the following: cough, shortness of breath, or new loss of taste or smell, or two or more of: congestion/runny nose, fever or chills, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, headache, fatigue, muscle or body aches, or sore throat. If your child tests negative for COVID-19 after symptoms developed, or is diagnosed with an alternative condition that explains the symptoms, they may be able to return sooner. [COVID-19 testing is available in the community](#) for individuals age 5 and older.

What should I do if my student has been in contact with someone outside of school who tested positive for COVID-19?

If your student was exposed to COVID-19 and is considered to be a “close contact” of that person, you must not attend any in-person MCMS activities until 14 days after your last contact with the individual who tested positive. A close contact is defined as someone who:

- Was within 6 feet of a person who has COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more (cumulatively, not sustained) within a 24-hour period. It doesn't matter if the individuals are masked or not, indoors or outdoors.
- Had direct physical contact with a person who has COVID-19
- Had contact with the respiratory secretions of a person who has COVID-19 case (for example, coughed or sneezed on; picked up a dirty tissue or mask; shared a drinking glass, food, towels, or other personal items).
- Lives with a person who has COVID-19, or stayed overnight for at least one night in a household with them.

Public Health representatives will follow up with you if you are identified as a close contact, and will give you direction on what to do and exactly how long to quarantine. However, if you know you are a close contact of a person who tested positive for COVID-19, please do not send your child to school while you wait for Public Health to contact you. If you choose to have your child tested for COVID-19, do not send your child to school while you wait for results. Email Amanda at office@madisoncommunitymontessori.org to inform her of your child's absence and the duration they will be out of school.

What should I know before traveling?

If your child travels out of state or out of country, they must not attend in-person school (either at MCMS or Learning Out) until 14 days after returning home, or if your child is tested for COVID-19 5 days or more after returning, your child can return to school with a negative test result.

Will MCMS tell us if there is a positive COVID-19 case at school?

We are following strict procedures based on Public Health Madison and Dane County guidance for identifying and communicating any positive cases of COVID-19 among our students and staff. If we are informed that there is a positive case of COVID-19 at school, our first response is to consider whether a classroom or Learning Out cohort must be closed while we review the situation. If your child's classroom or cohort is closed due to a case of COVID-19, you will be notified via email as quickly as possible. Next, we will contact all staff members who may have knowledge of the individual who tested positive to identify any close contacts that individual had at school. If your child is identified as a close contact of the individual testing positive, you will be notified as soon as possible with instructions on what to do. We report any positive COVID-19 case to local and state public health departments and will be working closely with guidance from them should we have a positive case of COVID-19 at school. In all cases, personal information about the individual testing positive will be kept confidential as required by law.