



**Marquette Area Public Schools
COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan
2022-2023 School Year**

September 6, 2022

MAPS continues to work with the Marquette County Health Department, Upper Peninsula Health System, Marquette Alger RESA and neighboring districts in analyzing data, formulating strategies, and adapting protocols and procedures to best meet the safety and educational needs of all our students.

The MAPS COVID-19 Preparedness and Response plan is a working document and should be reviewed as needed as part of the Marquette Area Public Schools Board of Education's regularly scheduled meetings.

MAPS will adhere to all CDC, MDHHS and/or MCHD orders regarding COVID-19 as they pertain to public schools in Michigan. If such an order is rescinded, MAPS will default to our previous guidelines if feasible.

In-Person Learning

The Marquette Area Public Schools intends to continue to offer families an in-person instructional setting for the 2022-2023 school year and it's our responsibility to progress monitor that students and families remain engaged, achieve at grade level, and grow academically and socially with this teaching and learning environment.

In the event of a classroom, building or district wide closure:

- If circumstances necessitate a classroom, building or district wide move to online learning, in-person preK-12 students will receive virtual instruction from their regularly assigned teachers.

- MAPS will provide a rigorous and robust distance learning program for any student affected in grades preK-12. MAPS will issue credit and grade advancement for satisfactory completion of courses over the time of closure. Teachers will track student participation; monitor student wellness; grade assignments, homework and quizzes; provide feedback on student work; differentiate instruction; communicate through zoom, google meets, email, and google classroom.
- MAPS will survey families of affected students to determine internet accessibility and device needs. Chromebooks are set up and ready to be issued to any student who may require one. If the need arises, hotspots will be installed nearest the parking areas in each of our seven buildings to aid families in downloading assignments and videos, If a student does not have internet access at home, or no way of reaching a hotspot, hard copy learning packets will be made available for pickup or will be mailed directly to homes.
- Students with IEP's, 504's and other learning plans will be provided accommodations that fit with virtual learning. Ancillary services will be provided to the extent staff is limited by local, state or CDC guidelines. Services such as OT, PT and speech may happen virtually if appropriate.

Safety Protocols

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)/Facial Coverings

- Facial coverings are optional to be worn by MAPS preK-12 students, staff, and bus drivers during school functions, including transportation.
- If the Marquette County Health Department or State of Michigan issues a mask mandate, MAPS students and staff will follow the mandate. When the mandate is lifted, MAPS will default to our previous guidelines if feasible.

Hygiene

- MAPS will provide adequate supplies for safe use by staff and students to support healthy hygiene behaviors including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol, paper towels, tissues, and signs reinforcing proper handwashing techniques.
- Teachers will contact the office if supplies run low during the school day.
- Staff will encourage handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- MAPS will encourage staff and students to cough and sneeze into their elbows or cover with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately using proper techniques.
- MAPS custodial staff will systematically and frequently check and refill soap and hand sanitizers.
- MAPS teaching staff will strongly encourage students to thoroughly wash their hands with soap throughout the school day.

Screening Students and Staff

- MAPS will cooperate with the Marquette County Health Department regarding implementing protocols for screening students and staff.
- All students and staff should self-screen before coming to work or school. If students/staff are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 they should stay home and monitor for 24 hours.
- MAPS will not temperature check or screen students before entry each day.
- MAPS is not conducting COVID-19 testing for staff or students.
- Our staff will encourage families to check their child's temperature at home each morning using oral, tympanic, or temporal thermometers. Students with a temperature of 100.4 or greater should stay home and consider coronavirus testing if symptoms of COVID-19 are present.
- Our staff will encourage families to monitor their children for symptoms of COVID-19, and if there is a presence of any symptoms, including cough or shortness of breath, to keep their student home from school and to follow up with a primary care provider.
- Due to considerable availability of the vaccine to students ages 5 and above, and based on the decreased risk of vaccinated students contracting or spreading the virus causing COVID-19 (MI Safer Schools Guidance for Managing Students Exposed to COVID-19, 2021), MAPS will only be giving guidance to families regarding possible quarantines, isolation, etc. to the extent required by local and State health department orders.

Testing

- MAPS will cooperate with the Marquette County Health Department regarding implementing protocols for screening students and staff if the need arises.
- Students who develop a fever or become ill with COVID-19 symptoms at school should be picked up by their parent or guardian, emergency contact, or ambulance if clinically unstable.
- Staff who develop a fever or become ill with COVID-19 symptoms at school should go home, monitor symptoms and seek guidance from a primary care provider.
- Symptomatic students and staff sent home from school should be kept home until they have tested negative for COVID-19, or have been released according to CDC guidelines.

Identification of Close Contacts and Quarantine

- MAPS will cooperate with the Marquette County Health Department regarding the identification of close contacts and quarantine.

Food Service

- Students, teachers, and food service staff should wash hands before and after every meal.
- All cafeteria workers are required to wear gloves when handling food items. They will wash their hands before and after all food service according to CDC guidance. Visual guidance will be posted in the kitchen and by every sink to encourage the correct procedure for hand washing.

Gatherings and Extra Curricular Activities

- Indoor assemblies are allowed. MAPS will adhere to all CDC, MDHHS and/or MCHD guidance when conducting these events.
- Off-site field trips are allowed. MAPS will adhere to all CDC, MDHHS and/or MCHD guidance when conducting these events.
- Extracurricular activities may continue and will follow all guidelines established by MAPS and/or MHSAA.

Athletics

- Facial coverings are optional to be worn by spectators.
- MAPS will comply with all guidance published by Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).
- Students, teachers, and staff must use proper hand hygiene techniques before and after every practice, event, or other gathering. Every participant should confirm that they are healthy and without any symptoms prior to any event.
- All equipment must be disinfected before and after use.
- Spectators are currently allowed at events and the district will follow the safety guidance established by the MHSAA.
- Indoor concession will be allowed with consideration to CDC, MCHD and MDHHS guidelines for providing food and drink inside school facilities.
- MAPS will continue working with the Marquette County Health Department (MCHD) to verify athletes who test positive for COVID-19, and may continue assisting with contact tracing (i.e., providing appropriate contact information) to determine who may have been exposed.
- All of our athletes will use a clearly marked water bottle for individual use. There will be no sharing of water bottles.

Cleaning

- MAPS custodial and instructional staff will disinfect frequently touched surfaces including light switches, doors, benches, bathrooms, at least daily with either an EPA-approved disinfectant or diluted bleach solution.
- MAPS custodial and instructional staff will frequently disinfect libraries, computer labs, arts, and other hands-on classrooms daily with either an EPA-approved disinfectant or diluted bleach solution.
- MAPS custodial and instructional staff will frequently disinfect student desks with either an EPA-approved disinfectant or diluted bleach solution.
- Playground equipment will be cleaned on a normal schedule.
- MAPS custodial and instructional staff will ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from children, and with adequate ventilation when staff use products.
- Staff must wear manufacturer recommended gloves, masks, or face shields when performing all cleaning activities.

Busing and Student Transportation

- Facial coverings/masking will be optional for MAPS transportation of staff and students.
- MAPS bus drivers will encourage the use of hand sanitizer before entering the bus. We will supply hand sanitizer on the bus.
- Bus drivers, weather permitting (no precipitation, temperature above 55 degrees Fahrenheit), will keep windows open on the bus both en route and when stopped.
- On buses with specialized transportation and equipment needs, bus aides or drivers will wipe down the equipment before or after using the bus.
- MAPS bus drivers will wipe down surfaces in the driver's cockpit, hard seats, arm rests, door handles, seat belt buckles, light and air controls, doors and windows, and grab handles daily.

Mental and Social Emotional Health

MAPS believes mental and social-emotional health is a critical and foundational piece to our district. We understand having an emphasis on these strategies is more important than ever. We'll elaborate in depth on what these are:

- At MSHS, counselors have utilized a SEL screener that will be given to all students this fall.
- At all schools, staff guidelines for identification and rapid referral of at-risk students are covered annually in opening professional development days. This will have more detail and depth as it relates to the current conditions. Major components have been Mandatory Reporter Training and Suicide Prevention (QPR).
- MAPS has had recent refreshers on QPR and trauma-informed training by the Marquette County Health Department.
- MAPS relies on its counselors as point persons for mental health referrals, communications to families/students and for public facing wellness materials.
- MAPS has a comprehensive crisis response plan that leverages available internal and external/community based resources, which can be activated as needed. Each school has specific response plans in place.
- MAPS has active communication channels for school stakeholders to address mental health concerns. Schools use internet filtering to monitor student key words for students searching suicide.
- Elementary and the Middle school have Social emotional learning courses for nearly every student.
- All schools have mandatory health and physical health courses.