

**SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR MARBLE FALLS ISD SCHOOL SETTINGS
2021 – 2022**

PUBLIC HEALTH STATEMENT

The safety and well-being of all staff and visitors are a priority for Marble Falls ISD as the district welcomes all students and campus-based personnel back to our campuses for the 2021-2022 school year. Marble Falls ISD will not offer remote instruction for the 2021-2022 school year, so all students will be required to attend school on campus. Marble Falls ISD schools will continue to comply with the laws of the State of Texas, practices, protocols, and safety guidelines recommended by the Burnet County Medical Authority, the Texas Education Agency, and CDC. The goal is to collaboratively ensure that all students, employees, and visitors in district facilities remain safe and secure to the greatest extent possible. Some safety measures that Marble Falls ISD implemented during the 2020-2021 school year will continue. The measures we will continue to practice include having access to hand sanitizer, sanitizing desks regularly and emphasizing instruction on the importance social distancing. The wearing of masks will be optional for both students and staff members. The district may need to change protocols at any time to address specific needs and circumstances and comply with changes in law as we work to protect the health and safety of students, employees and the community.

The District budgeted for the necessary cleaning and sanitation supplies that will be needed to start schools in August. All classrooms will be equipped with plenty of hand sanitizers and bathrooms will be stocked with soap and paper towels.

Elementary students will receive instruction during the first week of school on appropriate hygiene practices and mitigation strategies and will be reinforced throughout the school year. We have faith that our students will continue to do their part to keep their home and school families safe.

These guidelines are subject to change based on law, regulatory guidance, and local health conditions.

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| <p>AT HOME BEFORE SCHOOL SCREENING</p> | <p>Parents/Guardians are expected to screen their students for COVID-19 symptoms each day prior to sending their students to school. The CDC self-checker can be found here.</p> <p>Staff are expected to self-screen for COVID-19 before coming to work each day. Teachers and staff must report to their supervisor if they themselves have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab-confirmed with COVID19. The CDC self-checker can be found here.</p> <p>COVID-19 symptoms for screening include evaluating if the student has begun experiencing any of the following symptoms in a way that is not normal for them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit; |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Loss of taste or smell; ● New uncontrolled cough that causes difficulty breathing (or, for students with a chronic allergic/asthmatic cough, a change in their cough from baseline); ● Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath; ● New onset of severe headache, especially with fever; ● Sore throat; ● Significant muscle pain or ache; or ● Diarrhea, vomiting, or abdominal pain <p>Parents must ensure they do not send their child to school on campus if the child is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms (as listed above) or is lab-confirmed with COVID-19.</p> <p>In addition, if the student has had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, they need to remain off campus for 10 days. “Close contact” is defined later in this document.</p> <p>MFISD needs parents' cooperation in not sending children to school who are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms, especially if they are running a fever.</p> |
| DAILY CLEANING | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Each classroom will be disinfected daily. ● Disinfectant and paper towels will be provided in each classroom and common areas to maximize room-to-room cleanliness. |
| HAND WASHING | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hand sanitizer will be available at the main entry to each campus and district facility as well as in the cafeteria and other common areas. ● Staff and students will be expected to regularly wash or sanitize their hands. |
| MASKS/FACE COVERINGS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Per Executive Order GA-34 issued by Governor Abbott, as of June 4, 2021, masks are optional for all students and staff. ● Although not legally allowed to require the use of a mask, we know it is one of the few tools effective in keeping kids virus free. Therefore, we strongly recommend students wear a medical facemask. ● Symptomatic students will need to wear a mask in the nurse’s office. |
| CLASSROOM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Each classroom will be outfitted with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Visuals that emphasize the importance of hand washing, and how to contain the spread of germs by coughing and sneezing. ○ Refillable alcohol-based hand sanitizer. ○ Access to disinfectant spray and paper towels to sanitize working surfaces. ● Campuses will make every effort to make sure students wash their hands before they eat. ● Classroom surfaces will be cleaned at a minimum of once per day. ● Teachers and staff will have access to disinfectant to sanitize high-touch and working surfaces and shared objects regularly. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Classrooms with exterior windows may be utilized to improve circulation. |
| PASSING PERIODS AND TRANSITIONS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Access to hand sanitizer will be provided throughout the campus. |
| RESTROOM ACCESS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff and students must wash hands with soap and water prior to exiting the restroom. ● Bathrooms will include visuals indicating proper handwashing techniques and social distancing will be displayed to consistently reinforce this practice. |
| WATER | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students may fill their water bottles at school, but they cannot use the water fountains (to prevent touching the surfaces). ● Water fountains will continue to be transitioned to water fill stations on all campuses with all due diligence. |
| VISITORS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Visitors (including mentors and reading buddies) will be restricted for the first semester. ● All visitors should self-screen, including temperature taken, to determine if they have COVID-19 symptoms or are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and if so, must remain off campus until they meet the criteria for re-entry. ● Additionally, visitors should self-screen to determine if visitors have had close contact with an individual who is lab-confirmed with COVID-19, and, if so, they should remain off campus until the 10-day incubation period has passed. |
| SPECIAL EVENTS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Until further notice, in-person events which have historically been attended by parents or community will have strictly limited attendance (attendance limits will be based on the evolving nature of local health conditions). |
| STUDENT OR STAFF DISPLAYING COVID-19 SYMPTOMS | <p>Student or Staff Displaying COVID-19 Symptoms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Teachers will monitor students throughout the day and refer to the nurse if symptoms are present. ● When a student has displayed symptoms of COVID-19, the school nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine if and when a student needs to be sent home. ● For any student who has a fever at or above 100.0, the student will be required to go home for at least 36 hours. ● Students who are ill will be separated from their peers and should be picked up within 30 minutes and no later than one hour from the time that campus contacted the student's parent/guardian. ● Staff members displaying COVID-19 symptoms will follow district protocols including isolation from students and other staff members. <p>The decision about how to respond in a particular case will depend on the number of individuals with whom the infected individual had close contact</p> |

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| | <p>and the next steps that the school must take in coordination with public health entities. The response is based in the scientific understanding of how the virus spreads, is coordinated with the local public health entities, and is communicated transparently with relevant parties.</p> <p>The school nurse is the contact for if a student has symptoms of COVID-19. Should the student exhibit signs of COVID-19, the student will be given a mask to wear while in the nurse’s office. The school nurse will remain in contact with the family to determine the return to school date.</p> |
| <p>CONTACT WITH COVID-19 POSITIVE PERSON</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consistent with expectations from regulatory authorities and law, Marble Falls ISD will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers, staff or visitors who participate in any on campus activities. ● For a confirmed COVID-19 positive test, the classroom will undergo a deep clean that may require the students to be moved to an alternate location on campus for a period of time. ● Students or staff who come in close contact with a COVID-19 positive individual will be asked to self-quarantine for 10 days and should not return to campus during that time except for those who have been fully vaccinated and are not showing symptoms. ● Close contact will be determined by the Burnet County Medical Authority. ● Marble Falls ISD may ask for evidence of vaccination (subject to regulatory guidance). <p>The decision about how to respond in a particular case will depend on the number of individuals with whom the infected individual had close contact and the next steps that the school must take in coordination with public health entities. The response is based on the scientific understanding of how the virus spreads, is coordinated with the local public health entities, and is communicated transparently with relevant parties.</p> <p>The school nurse is the contact for determining if a student has had close contact with a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19. The school nurse will remain in contact with the family to determine the return to school date.</p> |
| <p>INDIVIDUALS CONFIRMED OR SUSPECTED WITH COVID-19</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Consistent with expectations from regulatory authorities and law, Marble Falls ISD will notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers, staff or visitors who participate in any on campus activities. ● For a confirmed COVID-19 positive test, the classroom will undergo a deep clean that may require the students to be moved to an alternate location on campus for a period of time. |

- Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 are strongly encouraged to submit a letter of good health from a physician's office prior to returning to school.
- Students involved in athletics and other extracurricular activities who have tested positive for COVID-19 are required to submit documentation from a physicians office to be cleared to participate.

Individuals Confirmed or Suspected with COVID-19

- Any individuals who **themselves** either: (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:
 - In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met:
 - i. at least one day (24 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
 - ii. the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
 - iii. at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above.
- If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either (a) obtain a medical professional's note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or (b) obtain an acute infection test at an approved testing location (<https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>) that comes back negative for COVID-19.

The decision about how to respond in a particular case will depend on the number of individuals with whom the infected individual had close contact and the next steps that the school must take in coordination with public health entities. The response is based in the scientific understanding of how the virus spreads, is coordinated with the local public health entities, and is communicated transparently with relevant parties.

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| | <p>The school nurse is the contact for determining if a student has a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19. The school nurse will remain in contact with the family to determine the return to school date.</p> |
| <p>CLOSE CONTACT</p> | <p>This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. Close contact is determined by the local health authority, is fact dependent, and therefore assessed on a case-by-case basis. What has been consistent is that close contact occurs when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A person with/presumed COVID-19 positive interacts with another person and a <u>face covering is not worn</u> ● A person with/presumed COVID-19 positive resides with another person ● And based on an evaluation of social distancing practices |
| <p>CRITERIA FOR RE-ENTRY</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when all three of the following criteria are met: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv. at least one day (24 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications); v. the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and vi. at least ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared. ● In the case of an individual who has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and who is not evaluated by a medical professional or tested for COVID-19, such individual is assumed to have COVID-19, and the individual may not return to the campus until the individual has completed the same three-step set of criteria listed above. ● If the individual has symptoms that could be COVID-19 and wants to return to school before completing the above stay at home period, the individual must either (a) obtain a medical professional’s note clearing the individual for return based on an alternative diagnosis or (b) obtain an acute infection test at an approved testing location (https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/) that comes back negative for COVID-19. |