



South Delta School District

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SOUTH DELTA SCHOOL DISTRICT COVID-19 GUIDELINES

The South Delta School District fully agree that the education of our students are imperative. The faculty and staff are dedicated to providing students with the knowledge and skills they will need to accelerate their learning in the safest learning environment.

For education to continue, we must put in place measures that will help reduce the transmission of coronavirus within our school community. These measures have been issued by the Mississippi Department of Health for our consideration and usage where needed.

General considerations:

The virus spreads primarily from person-to-person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, talks or sings.
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- The longer people remain in close proximity, the higher the likelihood of spread from one to another. • COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

The virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading very easily and sustainably between people. In general, the more closely a person interacts with others and the longer that interaction, the higher the risk of COVID-19 spread.

It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes. We are still learning about how the virus spreads.

The highest risk for exposure from an infected person is in situations involving full-capacity in person classes, activities and events. This is especially critical when children and teachers are not spaced apart, the activity requires students and staff to interact closely or when supplies are shared (see risks in school setting from CDC below)

1. **Lowest Risk:** Students and teachers engage in virtual-only classes, activities, and events.
2. **More Risk:** Small, in-person classes, activities, and events. Groups of students stay together and with the same teacher throughout/across school days and groups do not mix. Students remain

at least 6 feet apart and do not share objects (e.g., hybrid virtual and in-person class structures, or staggered/rotated scheduling to accommodate smaller class sizes).

3. **Highest Risk:** Full sized, in-person classes, activities, and events. Students are not spaced apart, share classroom materials or supplies, and mix between classes and activities.

All recommended measures for source control will be utilized as feasible, including:

- Routine symptom and temperature screening.
- Adequate supplies to maintain hygiene.
- Maintaining a six-foot separation between students.
- Cloth face coverings or cloth masks by all staff. Face shields may be worn but a cloth face covering, or cloth mask must be worn also. Face shields do not replace the need for cloth face coverings.
- Cloth face coverings for students as feasible dependent on age and other factors (difficulty breathing, unable to remove face covering without assistance).
- Frequent environmental cleaning of frequently touched areas.
- Staggered cafeteria times.
- Mask use for school bus drivers and maintaining six feet from students.
- Determining the level of risk associated with an activity based on the MSDH Activity Decision Matrix provided.
- Testing: Universal testing of all students and staff without symptoms or known exposure is not recommended.

Guidelines for K-12—COVID-19 Cases or Suspected Outbreaks in K-12 Setting Recommendations around Individual Cases and Suspected Outbreaks

A. COVID-19 in a student or staff member:

1. Be prepared to separate ill children and faculty with symptoms consistent with COVID-19 and place in an isolation room. Per the school policy the student's parent/guardian should be notified.
2. Any COVID-19 test-positive student or staff member should be isolated at home and excluded from the school setting for 10 days after onset of symptoms (10 days after test date if person had no symptoms);
3. An individual who is 10 days past the onset of symptoms (or test date if no symptoms) and has been fever free for 24 hours can be allowed to return to the school setting. A negative test should not be required for return to the school setting. It is also recommended that a return from the child's provider should not be required.
 - a. If faculty/teachers or staff are deemed essential by the school, they may return to work if they are 10 days past the onset of symptoms, have been fever free for at least 24 hours and have improvement of other symptoms if the school deems them essential or critical.

B. Close Contacts to a COVID-19 student or staff member:

1. Close contacts are identified as any individual within 6 feet of the infected person for at least 15 minutes (the exposure period is cumulative over the school day) or greater during the infected person's contagious period. The contagious period is 48 hours before to 10 days after symptoms started (or 48 hours before to 10 days after test if there were no symptoms).
2. School nurses wearing proper medical personal protective equipment (see general considerations) will not be considered close contacts.
3. All contacts who had exposure to the infected person in the school setting up to 48 hours before symptoms started (or before test date if there were no symptoms) should be quarantined and excluded from the school setting for a full 14 days after last exposure.
4. **There is no test out of quarantine; the quarantine period is a full 14 days regardless of any test results during the quarantine period.**
5. **Recommendations for students and staff identified as close contacts (based on the above definition)**
 - a. Send quarantine instructions to those students and staff who are identified as close contacts as described above (see attached).
 - b. Contacts should be excluded from the school setting and should be under quarantine at home for a full 14 days after last exposure even if they test negative.
 - i. If faculty/teachers or staff are deemed essential by the school, they may continue to work under quarantine if they have no symptoms, have their symptoms and temperature monitored daily by the school and wear a cloth face covering or mask the entire time they are on the campus. If they become symptomatic, they should not come to the school setting.
 - ii. Contacts will be instructed to undergo testing for COVID-19 (at their primary care provider or at one of the clinics/testing sites listed at) even if they have no symptoms. https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,21912,420,874.html

- iii. Contacts will further be instructed to monitor their symptoms and temperature and contact their provider for evaluation and need for retesting if they develop symptoms.
 - iv. Contacts will not be required to have a negative test prior to return to school if they have remained symptom-free for the 14-day quarantine period.
 - v. People who have tested positive for COVID-19 do not need to quarantine or get tested again for up to 3 months as long as they do not develop symptoms again.
- 6. In a classroom or group setting (such as a sports team, for example a football team, or other activity) when it is difficult to determine specific contacts, then consideration will be given for exclusion, quarantine and testing recommendations as above for the whole group or classroom, rather than limiting to a few known close contacts.
- 7. Parent notification:
 - a. The school will notify the parents of children in the affected group or classroom (see sample notification).
- 8. The areas used by the sick person will be closed off and will not be used until after cleaning and disinfecting (CDC recommends waiting at least 24 hours prior to cleaning and disinfecting the area).
- 9. The district will follow CDC recommendations for environmental cleaning (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/clean-disinfect/index.html>)
- 10. The district will report cases in teachers/staff and students (and outbreaks-see definition below) utilizing the MSDH survey.
 - a. The survey asks for aggregate data only, and will be completed by 12:00pm every Monday with information for the prior week.
 - i. Each school in Mississippi will be directly contacted by local MSDH staff to provide local contacts and phone number. If at any times the school has questions or needs guidance around cases in teachers and staff, school dismissal recommendations or outbreaks, contact the district office and we will contact the local team. In addition to the local numbers and points of contact the district will receive; we may also contact the MSDH Office of Epidemiology for questions or guidance.

C. Suspected Outbreak among students or staff members:

- 1. An outbreak is defined as ≥ 3 cases of COVID-19 in a classroom or group (sports team, group activity, band, or other) within 14 days.
- 2. In this setting 3 or more cases may not indicate ongoing transmission, but the risk of exposure and transmission to the group or classroom is increased.
- 3. The individual cases will be excluded and isolated as described in the previous section.
- 4. In the event of a suspected outbreak, the entire class or group will be quarantined and excluded from the school setting as defined in the previous section.
- 5. School Dismissal Considerations. The school may consider dismissal of the entire student/faculty under the following conditions:
 - i. If ≥ 3 individual classroom settings, defined groups, or defined buildings are experiencing simultaneous outbreaks, or
 - ii. If multiple absentees or exclusions of students and staff are leading to disruptions in on-campus functioning and impacting the learning environment as determined by the school.
 - iii. If decided upon, dismissal will be for at least 14 days to interrupt transmission. Appropriate cleaning and disinfection will occur (waiting at least 24 hours) following the CDC guidelines linked in the previous section.

- iv. In the event of a school dismissal, extracurricular group activities and large events, such as performances, field trips, and sporting events will also be cancelled. This may require close coordination with other partners and organizations (e.g., high school athletics associations, music associations).
 - v. Also, in the event of a school dismissal, we will discourage students and staff from gathering or socializing anywhere, like at a friend's house, a favorite restaurant, or the local shopping mall.
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 - i. Each school in Mississippi will be directly contacted by local MSDH staff to provide local contacts and phone number. If at any times the school has questions or needs guidance around cases in teachers and staff, school dismissal recommendations or outbreaks, contact the district office and we will contact the local team. In addition to the local numbers and points of contact the district will receive; we may also contact the MSDH Office of Epidemiology for questions or guidance.
7. Roles of School/District
- a. Follow the district plan for prevention of spread of infection to students and staff in the school setting.
 - i. If a case of COVID-19 is reported in the school, the school will identify contacts and determine whether individual contacts can be identified, or if an entire group will be considered contacts based on the classroom or group dynamics (for example, a football team).
 - 1. To identify the level of contact more easily, the school will establish a plan (such as assigned seats with a copy of the seating chart for each class) to assist in their identification of contacts.
 - ii. Notify the positive case (either teacher, employee or student) of the need for 14-day isolation and exclusion.
 - iii. Notify the families of the status of their child's contact.
 - iv. Notify the group where the case occurred, or in some instances, notify the school, that a case of COVID-19 has been identified.
 - v. Sample notification letters can be viewed on the Mississippi State Department of Health's website at https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,420.html
8. Roles of Parent/Guardian:
- a. Screen their child for symptoms and keep the child home if they are not well.
 - b. Follow the testing or isolations directions if they receive a case or contact letter.