

Meridian Medical Arts Charter High School Health and Safety Plan 2021-2022

Goals

1. Protect the health and safety of students and staff- physical, emotional, and mental.
2. Guaranteed and viable curriculum for all students and schools.
3. Adaptability and flexibility with evolution of COVID 19.
4. Emphasize a culture of personal accountability and high integrity.
5. Encourage predictable patterns of behavior.
6. Encouraging social distancing as much as possible and masks are recommended.

Facility Strategies

- **Drinking Fountains:**

- Drinking fountains will be closed except for the "bottle fill-up" feature.

Administrator and custodian walk-through:

- A specified member of the administrative team will complete a building walk-through with the head custodian no less than once a week.
- The intent of the walk-through is to identify any troublesome areas and to remedy the concern in a timely manner.

Cleaning processes:

- Frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing is of utmost importance in preventing the spread of COVID. Therefore, WASD has ensured that we have enough inventory of soap and hand sanitizer.
- Wall mount hand sanitizer stations have been placed in every classroom and throughout high traffic areas in hallways and entrances.
- WASD will disinfect daily, frequently touched surfaces such as doors and door handles, light switches, and hand railings.
- 2 times a week schools will have a deeper disinfection of desktops, tables, and other surfaces tops.
- Cafeteria tables and benches will be disinfected after each use.
- Air exchanges will occur at a minimum of 4 times/hour. Most schools air exchanges occur 5x/hour.

Classroom layout:

- Student desks should be distanced to the best of our ability.
- Remind students NOT TO SHARE laptops or computer keyboards, drinks, food, snacks, gum, writing utensils, tissues, face masks, make-up, chap stick, eating utensils, musical instruments, or personal items.
- Consider holding class outside when weather permits and the material to be taught allows for this.
- All students and staff are required to wear masks/face coverings properly, covering mouth and nose, while they are in the classroom until further notice. For those students or teachers who have the need for their lips to be seen, e.g., interpreters, special education teachers or teachers teaching young children how to sound out letters or

words, the Clear Mask (<https://www.theclearmask.com>) or the Rafi Nova Mask (<https://rafinova.com/pages/face-mask>) are acceptable face masks when engaged in activities for which a cloth face mask or surgical mask is not practical. The advantage to the Clear Mask is that the plastic window does not fog with speaking.

- If a student reports feeling ill or appears to be ill, remove the student from the classroom in a manner that protects the individual students' privacy and into the hallway, where the student must be physically distanced from all other persons. Contact the school nurse prior to sending the student to the nurse and advise the nurse of the student's symptoms so that the nurse can make the necessary preparations to receive the child.
- Teachers should be mindful of their proximity and duration of close contact with students within the classroom. Within a class period, teachers should avoid being within (six) 6 feet of a student for a duration of 15 minutes or more.
- Teachers should consider every type of classroom activity and how to conduct those activities with the mitigating measures in place.

Computer lab use and cleaning:

- Students will use the hand sanitizer immediately upon entering the classroom and will sanitize their workstation as a regularly scheduled task when directed by the teacher.

Signage:

- Physical distancing signage or markings that serve as reminders will be placed throughout the school.

Operations Strategies

School Arrival:

- All students will enter the building using the main entrance.
- We are asking that students arrive no sooner than 7:30 am on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday; Wednesdays no earlier than 7:45 am. Upon arrival students will report immediately to their first period class, or to cafeteria to eat breakfast and then move directly to first period class. Grouping in hallways will be discouraged. In instances where students may arrive before 7:15 or 7:35 and staff is not available for supervision, students may have to wait outside until the building opens. Appropriate physical distancing is expected.
- Staff will remind students to sanitize hands.

School Departure:

- The students will be released at the end of the day according to the location of their classroom using the nearest exit.

Release/transition times:

- Students will exit using the nearest doors.
- Administration/Security will be in the hallway during the transitions to support and reinforce the protocols.
- Students are expected to immediately report to their next period.

Breakfast:

- All physical distancing protocols will be encouraged.
- The school nutrition staff and the building administration will coordinate the development of a plan that is suitable for the limited amount of time the students will have to consume their food.

Lunch:

- During the lunch break, students will be expected to either be seated eating in the cafeteria, in a teacher's classroom, the library, or they will remain outside for the duration of lunch. Teachers may choose to allow a minimal number of students to eat in their classroom under their supervision.
- Weather permitting, Students will be encouraged to be outside during lunch and to follow social distancing protocols.
- To provide as much physical distancing as possible, students that choose to eat in the cafeteria will be expected to be seated with a limited number of students per table.
- Students who leave campus during lunch must do so in a timely manner using the nearest exit.
- Students who eat lunch off campus will return to the building no sooner than five (5) minutes before the first lunch bell.
- At the end of lunch, students will go immediately to their next class.
- The school nutrition staff and the building administration will coordinate the development of a plan that is suitable for the limited amount of time the students will have to consume their food.
- All students will be reminded to use the available hand sanitizer prior/after eating their lunch.

Performance-based courses:

- The administration will work closely with the Physical Education teacher to create as much physical distancing space as possible while the students are all in one location. She will create plans to keep their students safe.
- Weather permitting, teachers will have the opportunity to arrange for classes to be held outside.
- However, when PE is held indoors, it is important that students be distanced as much as possible and all students are required to wear masks/face coverings properly, covering mouth and nose, due to the risk of airborne transmission and due to the fact that when a person exhales, they project more virus in their respiratory droplets and those droplets can travel further than six (6) feet.
- All nonessential items will be removed from the classrooms and students will be spread
- Each P.E. class lines up somewhere different in the gym to help avoid large gatherings. One class will take roll in the West gym while the other classes take roll in the Main and North Gyms.
- All students and staff are required to wear masks/face coverings properly, covering mouth and nose, while they are in the classroom (Gym) until further notice.

School lockers:

- Lockers will not be assigned during the 2021-22 school year and students will be allowed to carry backpacks. If a student would like a locker, they may check one out in the office.

Parent Strategies

- **Reporting student absences:**
 - Parents will report an absence by calling the school 208-855-4075.
 - In the case that a student has contracted the virus, the parent is requested to provide this information to school personnel. Students will COVID related absences will be marked ISO in PowerSchool and these days will not count towards the allowable absences at MMACHS.

Student drop off & pick up:

- Parents are requested to exclusively use the designated drop off & pickup location which is lane in front of the school.

Building access and visitation:

- Parents will be asked to wait outside when picking up their child.
- When the need to enter the school exists, the parent will be restricted to the office area.
- Parents will request an appointment when it is necessary to meet in person with school personnel.
- Masks are required of all guests when entering the building.
- Visitors will not be permitted during the school day.

How to help:

- Continue to monitor your child's physical condition.
- If your child is sick, please keep them home.
- If a student shows mild symptoms and needs to be picked up, they will be social distanced from others as much as possible near the health office until a guardian is able to pick them up.

Staff Strategies

- **Return to work:**
 - All staff will be required to review this plan with their 2nd period classes at the start of the school year.
 - At the beginning of the school year, all members will be provided this plan to review and will discuss methods to maintain communication with the students, parents, and staff.

WASD EAP:

- Employees can access the Employee Assistance Plan (EAP) in times of emotional need: <https://www.westada.org/Page/83692>

Crisis Management:

- The school crisis management and plan will be enacted during a crisis.

Physical distancing:

- All staff members are expected to follow the physical distancing guidelines to the best of their ability.
- It is preferable to conduct meetings virtually, when possible.
- Meeting participants are encouraged to maintain physical distancing of at least six (6) feet.
- Larger group meetings should also follow the similar guidelines listed above, including conducting meetings virtually when possible and considerations for maximum number of participants. When in-person meetings are required, all participants are encouraged to be physically distanced by at least six (6) feet and are encouraged to wear proper face masks correctly.
- Staff members eating in the same room, should attempt to maintain at least six (6) feet of physical distancing or more. Unless actively eating or drinking, proper face masks are required.

Hand cleaning:

- Frequent hand washing and/or hand sanitizing is of utmost importance in the prevention of the spread of COVID.
- Wall mount hand sanitizer stations have been placed in every classroom and high traffic areas throughout the campus.

Cough:

- Staff will be reminded to always cough into their upper arm and away from others.
- Staff is encouraged to monitor their physical symptoms and to stay home if needed.

Mask use:

- All students and staff are required to wear masks/face coverings properly, covering mouth and nose, while they are in the school further notice.
- Teachers will support the students in the proper use of the mask as well as demonstrate their awareness of how they respond when properly wearing a mask.
- Proper face coverings can include cloth masks with two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric, surgical masks, or gaiters with two fabric layers or that are folded over to make two layers. Masks with an exhalation valve or vent are not appropriate face coverings because they allow virus to escape through the mask. A face shield alone is not an acceptable face covering, except in very limited situations as approved by the building principal in collaboration with health services office and region director. This is because face shields provide little, if any protection for the face shield wearer or those around him/her from droplet or aerosol transmission. For those students or teachers who have the need for their lips to be seen, e.g., interpreters, special education teachers or teachers teaching young children how to sound out letters or words, the Clear Mask <https://www.theclearmask.com> or the Rafi Nova Mask <https://rafinova.com/pages/face-mask> are acceptable face masks when engaged in activities for which a cloth face covering, or surgical mask is not practical. The advantage to the Clear Mask is that the plastic window does not fog with speaking.
- Wearing a face covering correctly means that the face covering completely covers the mouth and nose and the mask does not have significant gaps at the sides where it does not fit well against the face.
- There is an opt-out option for mask wearing for students and staff. **This was revoked on September 10, 2021 due to rises in community spread both within our school and**

community. MMACH will reevaluate within 30 days if we want to reinstate the mask opt out option.

Guest Speakers:

- Guest Speakers will be allowed on the basis that the teacher has made prior arrangements with administration and speakers are able to adequately social distance and wear masks when necessary.

Field Trips:

- Field Trip permission must always be granted via administration and by following proper procedures. Most field trips will be discouraged during the 2021-22 school year.

Other Consideration Strategies

- **Counseling/Special Services:**

- Counselors will be available for both staff and students to help with mental health assistance.

Assemblies:

- School assemblies may be offered during the 2021-22 school year with administrative approval.

Parent-Teacher Conferences:

- Parent-Teacher conferences will be held via Teams or over the phone and by appointment only.
- Each appointment will last approximately 3-5 minutes.
- Conferences needing more than 3-5 minutes will be rescheduled during a coordinated time between the parent and teacher.

COVID Testing & Reporting:

- Utilizing existing processes for communicable diseases, positive COVID cases, knowledge of individual who has received a COVID test and is awaiting results, or knowledge of an exposure, will be reported to the Health Services department with consideration of the following:
 - Confidentiality with ADA and HIPAA WILL be maintained
 - Staff member contacts school nurse. School nurse will follow Health Services process for handling of communicable diseases
 - *Athletics – Staff member will notify ATC/AD in addition to school nurse
 - Independent decisions to send out communication will not occur.

Quarantine Amendment for 21-22

- A person that is exposed in the classroom setting, but wearing a mask and/or vaccinated, may maintain their school and work-related activities. Students would be required to

complete a 10-day symptom check, and mandatory mask requirement for 10 days, or a negative test at the five-day mark.

- If a student/staff member is vaccinated and exposed but *not wearing a mask*, they are required to wear a mask for 10 days and monitor symptoms.
- If a student/staff member is unmasked and NOT vaccinated and is exposed they must quarantine out of school for 10 days, or until a negative test result can be produced after day 5.

This plan will be reviewed and updated twice annually by the MMACHS school board or as needed with changes in the community spread of the COVID virus and recommendations from local health authorities.

Last update: August 30, 2021