

RETURN TO 5-DAY INSTRUCTION

As Marion County School District begins a new school year, questions about COVID-19 abound. Many people voice concerns about workplace and school guidelines on vaccines and masks.

Proviso 1.108. (SDE: Mask Mandate Prohibition) states: No school district, or any of its schools, may use any funds appropriated or authorized pursuant to this act to require that its students and/or employees wear a facemask at any of its education facilities. This prohibition extends to the announcement or enforcement of any such policy.

The South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) interprets the above language to mean that school districts are prohibited from requiring students and employees to wear a facemask while in any of its educational facilities for the 2021-22 school year. Educational facilities include all property owned and operated by the individual district.

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- Mask are no longer mandatory in schools, however Marion County School District does strongly recommend mask or face coverings for all students and staff . Students or staff exhibiting symptoms are encouraged to wear masks. Students, staff, and visitors will be required to wear mask in healthcare areas
- Visitors will be allowed to enter the building, but they must remain in front office. (Visitors will be required to wear mask or face coverings while in the building. This include open house and orientations. Visitors assisting teachers with moving in, will be require to have on mask or face coverings when they are entering and exiting the building.) Any parent meetings with teachers must be held in the area at the front of the building.
- Staff temperature checks will continue to be taken upon entrance into the building.

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- Hand sanitizing stations will be placed in classrooms, cafeterias, and main offices, restrooms, and strategically throughout buildings.
- Isolation rooms will continue to be used for students and staff exhibiting symptoms until they can leave the building.
- Custodial staffs will continue to be expected to use hydrostatic machines daily.

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- Water bottle refill stations will replace water fountains.
- Social Distancing decals will remain on floors, the expectation is that students remain socially distanced during transitions.
- Desk shields will be used to start the school year.
- Contact tracing will be conducted by school nurses during the 2021-2022 school year.
- Out of an abundance of caution, to begin the school year elementary, primary, and middle schools will have breakfast served in classrooms

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- Buses will continue to be sanitized after the morning, and afternoon routes. Mask will be required for students and bus drivers. Buses will operate at 67% capacity as suggested by the South Carolina Department of Education and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control)
- School level faculty or department meetings can be held in person or via Microsoft Teams.
- Please remind teachers/staff to be cognizant of the number students sent to the restroom at one time.
- Students will be allowed to check out books from the media center. Books will need to remain off the shelves for 48 hours upon return.

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- Individuals being assessed due to respiratory symptoms will be required to wear a face covering while in healthcare areas and also when transiting to/from these areas.
- Fully vaccinated people and people verified to have been infected with COVID-19 in the previous 90 days who were in close contact with someone who has COVID-19 but do not have COVID-19 symptoms do not need to quarantine unless they develop symptoms. Fully vaccinated people are recommended to get tested 3-5 days after exposure, even if they do not have symptoms, and it is important for them to wear a mask at school until 14 days after exposure or they receive a negative test result.”

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Athletics

- Maintain a roster of student athletes present
- Conduct temperature checks for athletes and coaches
- Head coaches should maintain a list daily that has coaches and athletes names along with the temperature reading.
 - Ask the following question:
 - Have you had a sore throat?
 - Have you had a cough?
 - Have you been around or exposed to anyone who has tested positive, has symptoms, or are waiting on test result?
 - Have you had a shortness of breath?

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- Equipment cannot be shared among players. If a student athlete does not have a
- required piece of equipment they will not be allowed to practice.

The following will take place with a positive test result:

- The student or coach will be quarantined, and DHEC is notified for contact tracing
- If someone has been fully vaccinated for greater than two weeks, the quarantine. They must monitor for symptoms and they exhibit symptoms, they should quarantine and be tested.
- Coaches and school personnel will notify other persons on the team of the positive test result

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- Marion County School District continues to use guidance from federal, state, and local health care agencies. The guidelines established in this document are subject to change with limited notice.