



MCPOLIN “STAYING OPEN” PLAN 2020-2021

Dear parents and caregivers,

I well know that over these first few days of re-opening our school we have all been observing and learning about our “new normal.” With a pandemic and the county and state laws and regulations created to offer safety and guidelines, we all in a very new experience requiring patience and flexibility.

I can only imagine the conversations and challenges of being at home managing all of the different information made available through the many sources, groups, and social media. The school and school district are in the sensitive position of having to share information based on need, as well as required to honor very strict rules and law. The laws I refer to are FERPA (student) and HIPAA (health) – are merging with the other county, state, and federal laws regarding student and employee privacy and confidentiality. In other words, we will share what and when we can as determined by these governing bodies.

Moving forward, here are the communication guidelines in reference to a positive test within a classroom: if a student or employee in the school tests positive, we are required to work closely with the health department to identify who – if anyone – came in contact with the individual, for how long (i.e., less than or more than 15 mins.), and in what capacity (i.e. inside vs. outside). We can then directly notify the families whose children were potentially exposed based on the health department’s guidelines and then follow the prescribed quarantine procedures. The whole class may also be notified that a positive case was found in a class. However, one positive test in a classroom does not mean that all students in a class should quarantine (this is why we have so many layers of mitigation – to ensure that any such exposure remains limited).

These quarantine procedures will impact many of us this year – some first-hand while others second-hand. Employees may need to be absent. Students may need to be absent. While we may notify some of you that your teacher is required to miss several days, we cannot and will not tell you anything about a specific student other than your own child. It is important that while working to keep everyone safe, we abide by these strict privacy and confidentiality rules and law.

Again, please remember that the PCSD is following the guidelines set forth by the Utah Department of Health. You can click on this link - <https://health.utah.gov>

THINGS TO NOTE:

- Parents – check your students every day for symptoms
- Parents should **KEEP THEIR CHILDREN HOME FROM SCHOOL IF HE OR SHE FEELS SICK**, or has symptoms of COVID – 19
- **Symptoms of COVID – 19 include, but are not limited to:**

- Cough and/or shortness of breath
- Fever of **100.4** or greater, chills or sweating
- Sore throat
- Muscle aches/pains or fatigue
- Decrease in sense of taste or smell
- Upset stomach, nausea, vomiting and /or diarrhea
- Runny nose or congestion
- Headache
- Due to current pandemic, we will be dismissing ALL students presenting with any of the above listed symptoms, unless the student has a current Health Care Plan in place related to the complaint.
- Parents of ill students will be encouraged to have their student seen by their health care provider, who will determine if testing is warranted.

Positive Cases in the School:

- The Health Dept. notifies the school of ANY positive cases and the school provides instructions to those who may have potentially been exposed.
- A school may disclose that someone at the school tested positive for COVID-19, as long as the facts alone or in combination with other information released do not identify the person (p.21)
- “Contact Tracing in Schools” information can be found on page 24.

Quarantine

- You (or your student) may be asked to quarantine for 14 days if you were exposed to COVID-19. This means you were in close contact with someone who tested positive for COVID – 19. **Close contact means you were closer than 6 feet from someone who has the virus for 15 mins. or more.**

Thank you for all of your efforts and more to keep us safe and open. Our theme continues to be All for One and One for ALL. Stay safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Bob Edmiston