

Mingus Union High School COVID-19 MITIGATION PLAN

Updated October 8, 2021

TO BE POSTED ON DISTRICT WEBSITE AND CAMPUS BY START OF ONSITE SUPPORT SERVICES

Health and Safety

a. Promoting behaviors that reduce the spread of COVID-19 (mitigation strategies)

Considerations	Action Plan
Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Frequent hand-washing and use of sanitizer will be strongly promoted.• Hand sanitizer and sanitizing wipes will be situated in all areas.• Guidance and signage will direct individuals to adhere to proper hygiene measures.
Cloth Face Coverings, masks, and face shields	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Face coverings, masks, and face shields are an optional component of our COVID-19 mitigation strategy until such time as their mandatory use is prescribed by executive order and/or Arizona Department of Health services or Yavapai County Community Health Services guidance.
Physical distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Efforts should be continually made to maximize physical distancing wherever and whenever possible. Even in communities where COVID-19 transmission is low or moderate, attempts should be made to maintain physical distancing of at least three (3) feet in campus locations where this is feasible.
Adequate Supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Large supplies of hand soap and sanitizer, sanitizing wipes, and disposable and washable face coverings have been procured and their use will be promoted.
Signs and Messages	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Signs will be posted in highly visible locations to promote everyday protective measures and how to stop the spread of germs.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messages about behaviors that prevent the spread of COVID-19 will be communicated to staff and families via school website, emails, and robocalls.
Screening for Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents, guardians, and students must be alert to COVID-19 symptoms and monitor for such. • STAY HOME WHEN SICK! • COVID-19 symptoms may present differently in children than in adults. For example, children are less likely than adults to have fever with COVID-19 and more likely to present with non-respiratory symptoms such as nausea and diarrhea. It is important to recognize many common illnesses have similar symptoms. • In an abundance of caution, any person experiencing symptoms should remain home. • Students should have their temperatures taken every morning and stay at home if at any time a temperature over 100.4 degrees is measured. • Parents and guardians must ensure that their students are free from COVID-19 symptoms before allowing them to enter school buses or any school facility. • Parents and guardians have an obligation to notify school officials if their child learns of any close contact with any individual who has been diagnosed with COVID-19.
COVID-19 Vaccinations	<p>If you've been fully vaccinated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can resume activities that you did prior to the pandemic. • You can resume activities without wearing a mask or staying 6 feet apart, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance. • If you <u>travel in the United States</u>, you do not need to get tested before or after travel or self-quarantine after travel. • You need to pay close attention to <u>the situation at your international destination</u> before traveling outside the United States. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ You do NOT need to get tested before leaving the United States unless your destination requires it.

- You still need to show a negative test result or documentation of recovery from COVID-19 **before** boarding an international flight to the United States.
- You should still get tested 3-5 days **after** international travel.
- You do NOT need to self-quarantine **after** arriving in the United States.
- If you've been around someone who has COVID-19, you do not need to stay away from others or get tested unless you have symptoms.
 - However, if you live or work in a correctional or detention facility or a homeless shelter and are around someone who has COVID-19, you should still get tested, even if you don't have symptoms.
- You will still need to follow guidance at your workplace and local businesses.
- If you travel, you should still take steps to protect yourself and others. You will still be required to wear a mask on planes, buses, trains, and other forms of public transportation traveling into, within, or out of the United States, and in U.S. transportation hubs such as airports and stations. Fully vaccinated international travelers arriving in the United States are still required to get tested 3 days before travel by air into the United States (or show documentation of recovery from COVID-19 in the past 3 months) and should still get tested 3-5 days after their trip.
- You should still watch out for symptoms of COVID-19, especially if you've been around someone who is sick. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, you should get tested and stay home and away from others.
- People who have a condition or are taking medications that weaken the immune system, should talk to their healthcare provider to discuss their activities. They may need to keep taking all precautions to prevent COVID-19.
- If you have a documented prior case of COVID-19, you may avoid a school-issued quarantine. School Nurse Jenn Doerksen will discuss this with you in the event you are determined to be a close contact of a positive case.

b. Maintaining Healthy Environments

Considerations	Action Plan
Cleaning and Disinfection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensified/increased frequency of cleaning/surface sanitizing has been instituted both in school facilities and vehicles. • Classroom surface sanitizing both midday and at the end of the school/work day.
Shared Objects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate staff and students regarding the sharing of objects. • Inform departments and ask for PO requests for additional <i>essential</i> supplies in order to avoid sharing.
Ventilation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular inspection all HVAC return air systems is in place.
Water Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water systems will be regularly flushed and water fountain usage will be limited. Signs will indicate bottle-filling only at each fountain. • Campus installation of portable hand-washing stations and water bottle filling stations.
Physical Barriers and Guides	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floor markings or stanchions used in reception areas; high school and district offices, front office aide station, cafeteria staging. Traffic will be limited and directed

c. Maintaining Healthy Operations

Considerations	Action Plan
Regulatory Awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued monitoring of state and local guidelines, recommendations and mandates.
Gatherings, Visitors, and Field Trips	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The size of school-sponsored gatherings will be determined by recommended physical distancing guidelines. • As current COVID-19 transmission trends continue, visitors will be allowed to enter school facilities beyond designated drop-off and pick-up areas.

Designated Point of Contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct inquiries to Mike Westcott for health and legal concerns, or to Genie Gee for instructional school issues.
Participation in Community Response Efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verde Valley school superintendents are coordinating similar responses to COVID-19 and school reopening strategies.
Communication Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff and families should self-report if they or their students have symptoms of COVID-19, a positive test for COVID-19, or were exposed to someone with COVID-19 within the last 14 days.
Sharing Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility use for non-school entities will be allowed on a limited basis and only upon the submission of an approved COVID-19 mitigation plan.

d. Preparing for When Someone Gets Sick

Considerations	Action Plan
Advise Staff and Families regarding suspected infection with COVID-19 and follow-up protocols.	<p>Much of this Plan includes guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) documents; “<i>Safely Returning to In-Person Instruction</i>”, pages 10-11 and “<i>Release from Isolation and Quarantine Guidance</i>”. These documents are linked here:</p> <p>https://www.azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/novel-coronavirus/covid-19-safely-return-to-in-person-instruction.pdf</p> <p>https://www.azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/novel-coronavirus/public-resources/release-from-isolation.pdf</p> <p>The home is the frontline for monitoring the health of our staff and students. Stay home if ill or exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms*. Parents and guardians must</p>

Advise Staff and Families regarding suspected infection with COVID-19 and follow-up protocols, continued.

take responsibility for ensuring the health of their students BEFORE they leave for school.

Suspected COVID-19 Infection – Employee

1. Immediately isolate the individual, if the individual remains in the workplace. Follow protocol for contact with someone who is ill, including removing them from the school environment safely and interacting with them with appropriate physical protective equipment (PPE).
2. Report this instance of suspected COVID-19 exposure or infection to the immediate supervisor and human resources if an employee and the school principal if a student. The school will immediately contact a parent or guardian if the suspected exposure or infection is with a student. Confidentiality is an absolute requirement.
3. Begin to determine which other employees or students have had “close contact” with the individual so as to make informed decisions regarding next steps. The Center for Disease Control defines “close contact” as someone who was within six (6) feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes starting from two (2) days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, two (2) days prior to specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated. Only those who have had “close contact” should be notified of possible exposure and the notification will recommend that exposed individuals monitor their health and contact their health provider, and if symptoms develop, self-quarantine. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/contact-tracing/contacttracing-plan/appendix.html#contact>.
4. Investigate the matter by telephonically interviewing the individual if they have left the site.

5. The district is obligated to record cases of COVID-19 as an occupational illness pursuant to 29 CFR Part 1904. OSHA has released revised guidance on May 19, 2020 regarding the limited investigation that employers must conduct in order to make a reasonable determination of whether the illness is work related. The district is not required to undertake extensive medical inquiry but must ask the employee how he or she believes they contracted COVID-19, discuss outside activities, and review work environment. The guidance provides examples of when it may be reasonable to determine that the illness was contracted at work:
<https://www.osha.gov/memos/2020-05-19/revised-enforcement-guidance-recording-cases-coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19>

6. Employees or students who have developed COVID-19 symptoms or have had a positive COVID-19 test result may not return to the site until they have met the CDC or State/County Health department's guidelines at that moment in time. Because guidelines in this area change regularly, describing the steps that will be taken would not be prudent.

**COVID-19 Symptoms include:*

- *Fever or chills*
- *Cough*
- *Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing*
- *Fatigue*
- *Muscle or body aches*
- *Headache*
- *New loss of taste or smell*
- *Sore throat*
- *Congestion or runny nose*
- *Nausea or vomiting*
- *Diarrhea*

	<p>Suspected COVID-19 Infection – Student or Parent</p> <p>1. Follow protocol re: isolation and transport of student, if at school: If a student develops COVID-19 symptoms at school, separate the student from all other students and staff, with the exception of one staff member to supervise the student. This staff member will wear PPE or a cloth face covering and will maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from the students at all times, unless there is an emergency. Staff will immediately notify a parent or emergency contact to pick up the student and will call 911 if the student appears to be in medical distress.</p> <p>2. Attempt to communicate with the parent. The district may call the parent to discuss possible exposure. If they are not reachable or decline to discuss the matter, cease all investigations and operate under the presumption that there is a possible COVID-19 exposure.</p> <p>3. Assess possible exposure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess who may have had contact with the individual or their family in the two days prior to symptom onset; and • Assess which district sites may need to be sanitized or temporarily closed. See Industrial Hygiene section for more information. <p>4. Determine who should receive notice of potential COVID-19 exposure. See next section on Reporting and Notification for more information.</p>
Staff or student becomes ill during school day	Adhere to isolation/transport protocol, if necessary, use isolation space adjacent to nurse's office. Arrange for staff or student member to go home ASAP.
Clean and Disinfect	Notify custodial staff regarding areas which may need to be closed for 24 hours. Plan to move classes if impacted.
Notify Health Officials and Close Contacts	We have and are cooperating with county health services on strategies for sharing information.

E. Reporting and Notification

Considerations	Action Plan
<p>The Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”), Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (“FERPA”), and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (“HIPAA”) should be considered in any district disclosure of possible COVID-19 infection. In each instance, a district should maintain all information as a confidential medical record and should only disclose relevant non-identifying information to those individuals that the district is permitted to provide notice.</p> <p>The Arizona Attorney General’s office has issued recent guidance on this issue: https://www.azag.gov/sites/default/files/2020-03/120-005.pdf.</p>	<p>A student’s possible exposure to COVID-19 should be treated as a student record subject to FERPA. Specifically, the Arizona Attorney General suggests “given the current health emergency, [educational institutions] should apply the FERPA/HIPAA exceptions and disclose sufficient information related to positive COVID-19 cases so those potentially affected students, staff, visitors, etc. can self-monitor and potentially self-quarantine.</p> <p>The district may also provide notice to appropriate parties if a parent or other member of the student’s household has a suspected COVID-19 exposure so they may self-monitor and self-quarantine. Notifications must not disclose any personally identifiable information about the individual unless a FERPA exception applies.</p> <p>The District will strictly adhere to the previously linked (and attached) guidance from ADHS regarding exposure and release from isolation and quarantine.</p> <p>Notification Basics for those with “close contact”. <i>Close contact is defined as being within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, 2 days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated. Differential determination of close contact for those using fabric face coverings is not recommended.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The notice must not contain personally identifying information; • The notice should only include non-identifying information that is relevant to allow those with potential exposure to self-monitor and self-quarantine; • Only provide the notice to “appropriate parties;” • The district may inform appropriate health officials as long as it complies with applicable privacy laws;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The notification should encourage those individuals that may have been exposed to COVID-19 to self-monitor for symptoms and to self-quarantine if appropriate.
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ADHS K-12 School Guidance for COVID-19

<https://www.azdhs.gov/covid19/index.php#schools-healthy-schools>

ADHS Release from isolation and quarantine guidance, updated 5/3/21

<https://www.azdhs.gov/covid19/documents/public-health-resources/release-from-isolation.pdf>

Please note: If you have a documented prior case of COVID-19, you may avoid a school-issued quarantine. School Nurse Jenn Doerksen will discuss this with you in the event you are determined to be a close contact of a positive case.

