



Mt Pleasant ISD Child Development Center COVID-19 Protocol

The MPISD Child Development Center houses multiple programs including, Early Head Start, Head Start, Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE), State PreK, and licensed child-care. In order to create a Return-to-School Plan and COVID-19 Protocol, guidance and mandates from TEA, MPISD, CDC, and Childcare Licensing. The conditions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic are still evolving, and guidance may change as we move forward. The MPISD Child Development Center's Safe Return-to-School plans will be continuously evaluated to adapt to current conditions in our area, as well as released guidance based on new evidence-based materials that recommended or required by the CDC, Governor, DSHS, or other governing health officials or agencies.

Purpose

The purpose of this protocol is to provide information and guidance for our staff, children and families during COVID-19 outbreaks or any additional viruses with correlating symptoms.

Health and Safety Measures

Training

All staff will be provided with training to include:

- Symptoms
- How it spreads
- How to protect oneself/others, self-actions, handwashing, hand sanitizer, covering cough/sneeze, use of PPE, and staying home when ill
- Workplace protection strategies

Definition of COVID-19 Symptoms

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, they will be asked if they have recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them:

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea

Definition of “Close Contact”

This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. Close contact is determined by an appropriate public health agency. For clarity, close contact is defined as:

- a) being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on while not wearing a mask or face shield), or
- b) being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes, while not wearing a mask or face shield; if either occurred at any time in the last 14 days at the same time the infected individual was infectious.

Health Screenings

In order to ensure the safety of all staff and students:

- All persons and children entering the MPISD Child Development Center, will be screened in accordance with CDC guidance *before* allowing entry into the operation:
 - *requiring* “yes” or “no” responses to the following questions:
 - Have you experienced any of the following symptoms in the past 48 hours: 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 or diarrhea?
 - Within the past 14 days, have you been in close physical contact (6 feet or closer for at least 15 minutes) with a person who is known to have COVID-19 or with anyone who has symptoms of COVID-19?
 - Are you isolating or quarantining because you may have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 or are worried you may be sick with COVID-19?
 - Are you, or anyone in your household, currently waiting on the results of a COVID-19 test?
 - *including* checking the temperature of each person and child upon arrival at the operation each day,
 - *denying* entry to any person who meets one of the following criteria:
 - Fever or signs or symptoms of a respiratory infections, such as cough, shortness of breath, or sore throat
 - Close contact in the last 14 days with someone who has a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19, someone who is under investigation for COVID-19, or someone who is ill with a respiratory illness; or
 - International travel within the last 14 days to countries with ongoing community transmission.

Infection Control Measures

- MPISD Child Development Center is requiring face coverings for all staff, on-site visitors, and all HS/EHS children over the age of 2 years.
- For students, Social Distancing of at least 6 feet will be encouraged and followed when feasible.

- Classroom schedules will be modified to ensure they isolate from other classes when eating in the cafeteria and on playground.
- “Specials” rotation classes will be hosted in outside classrooms when weather permits, or brought to student classrooms, in order to keep each group of children separated.
- Nap cots will be spaced out as much as possible, with children laying head to toe to reduce the potential for virus spread.
- Drinking fountains will be disabled, to prevent use and cross-contamination. Disposable cups will be provided for students to use to drink water throughout the school day, as needed.
- Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the building and accessible to staff, visitors, and (with supervision) students.
- Staff will be expected to regularly wash and sanitize hands.
- Students will receive instruction on effective hand-washing, as well as coughing and sneezing protocol.
- Gloves will be worn by staff when changing a diaper or handling soiled clothing.
- Students will wash hands before eating, following restroom breaks, before and after diapering, after recess, after changing clothes, and other times throughout the day.
- Staff and students will be encouraged to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and if not available, cough in their elbows. Used tissues should be discarded in the trash, hands should be washed with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or hand sanitizer should be used if a sink is not available.
- Visual aids will be posted throughout the buildings to illustrate appropriate actions.
- Classroom manipulatives, toys and supplies utilized by students will be sanitized daily after use.
- Soft toys will only be used by one child, and then laundered before use by another child.
- Restrooms, classrooms, and other surfaces regularly used will be disinfected daily and throughout the day as needed.
- Students will not be permitted to bring items from home (toys, backpacks, blankets, etc...).
- Regarding the pick-up and drop-off of children,
 - The drop-off of children will be completed outside the operation daily, to ensure each child/family is effectively screened prior to program entry.
 - The pick-up of children will be allowed inside the building; however, parents must mask, social distance, and pick-up will occur at the door of the classroom.

Safety Measures Regarding Transportation

Transportation services are provided for MPISD Child Development Center through the contracted agency, Durham Transportation. The following safety procedures will be implemented in coordination with Durham to help reduce the risk during the COVID-19 Pandemic:

- Drivers and Monitors should wear face coverings if it will not interfere with safe driving.
- CDC HS children will wear face coverings, and grouped by family and classroom.

- Staff and children will use hand sanitizer after touching handrails, and putting on or removing face covering.
- Monitor will ask parent if child has any of the posted symptoms before the child boards.
- Parents will check their child's temperature each day before boarding the bus.
 - If parent hasn't checked it, or doesn't have a thermometer, buses will be equipped with thermometers to take their child's temperature.
 - The Bus Monitor will sanitize the thermometer immediately after use.
- Parents will bring their own pen to use for signing out children.
 - If they do not have one- they will use the monitor's pen, and it will be sanitized immediately after use.
- On sign in sheet- monitor will indicate that the child completed a screener.
- Children will sit as far apart as possible, unless children are coming from the same home.
- Staff should use gloves if touching surfaces contaminated with bodily fluids.
- Each bus must be cleaned and disinfected between each route.

Clinic Procedures Related to COVID-19

If a student or staff member displays symptoms of COVID-19 while at school, the campus nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine if and when a student/staff needs to be sent home.

- If COVID-19 symptoms are present:
 - Staff member will immediately be sent home.
 - Student will be isolated in the Health station, and face covering will be secured until parent arrives.
 - Appropriate PPE will be worn by nurse when evaluating students/staff members
 - Any student/staff member with possible COVID-19 symptoms may be sent home regardless of absence of fever.
 - Campus nurse will provide parent / staff with the return-to-school criteria
 - Campus Administrator will be notified by the nurse if a student or staff member is assessed and sent home.
 - Administrator will relocate the cohort to an alternate area while the room is being disinfected.

Visitors

- Visitors will be restricted to those essential to school operations, and those performing official duties.
- Parents will not be allowed to eat meals on campuses until further notice.
- All visitors who enter the building are required to wear a face covering, and will be screened, in compliance with the *Licensing Emergency Rules in Response to COVID-19*:
- Campuses will utilize virtual meeting options, including phone calls, to limit campus visitors when possible.

- Social distancing is encouraged for all meetings unable to utilize virtual options.

Notification Procedures Related to COVID-19

- Consistent with Child Care Licensing notification requirements for communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools must notify in writing, all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers, or staff who participate in any campus activities.
- All parents will be notified in writing within 48 hours of becoming aware that a child or employee has contracted an illness deemed notifiable by the Department of Health and Human Services, maintaining confidentiality of the child or employee infected.
- If a student or staff member who has been in school is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19, the school is required to notify the local health department.

Family Engagement Activities

Parent Trainings (Virtual)

- To the extent possible, MPISD CDC Parent Training events will occur virtually, through ZOOM sessions.

Parent Trainings (In-person)

When in-person training and distribution of materials are necessary, the following safety precautions will be taken on-site:

- Upon arrival, training participants will complete the above detailed **Health Screenings** in compliance with the *Licensing Emergency Rules in Response to COVID-19*.
- Trainings will be held in the MPISD CDC Athletic Pavilion. This is an open-air pavilion with a large overhead fan, which provides adequate air circulation.
- Tables and distribution materials will be spaced a minimum of 6 feet apart, with a maximum of 12 participants in each session.
- Hand Sanitizer stations will be located at the entry to the event, as well on each table.
- Each participant will be provided with their own writing utensil to use during, and keep afterward, to prevent cross-contamination.
- At the conclusion of each training event, all items utilized (tables, chairs, materials, etc...) will be disinfected, and the pavilion will be fogged using the electrostatic disinfectant machine.

Isolation, Close Contact, and Return-To-School Procedures Related to COVID-19

MPISD Child Development Center Employees, who:

(a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or
(b) are presumed positive due to symptoms and exposure; or
(c) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (see *Definition of COVID-19 Symptoms*)
must **stay at home** (isolate) throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the following conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

- At least 24 hours have passed with no fever (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications)
- The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath) AND
- At least **five days** have passed since symptoms first appeared.
- Upon returning to work, the employee/contracted worker **must be properly masked for days 6-10**.

MPISD Child Development Center Students, who:

(a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or
(b) are presumed positive due to symptoms and exposure; or
(c) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (see *Definition of COVID-19 Symptoms*)
must **stay at home** (isolate) throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the following conditions for campus re-entry have been met:

- At least 24 hours have passed with no fever (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications)
- The individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath) AND
- At least **14 days** have passed since symptoms first appeared.

MPISD Child Development Center Employees Determined to Have Had Close Contact with Lab-Confirmed COVID-19 Person:

Employees who come into close contact (within 6 feet for 15 or more minutes without a face covering) with a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19, must follow the following protocol, according to their vaccination status.

Fully Vaccinated Staff:

No Symptoms:

- May return to work immediately
- Must be properly masked
- Must test once on day 3-5 from exposure

Symptomatic

- Must isolate for 5 days from symptom onset
- May return to work on day 6
- Must properly mask for days 6-10.

Non-Vaccinated Staff:

No Symptoms:

- Must isolate for 14 days
- May return to work on day 15

Symptomatic

If symptoms develop, staff tests positive, or is presumed positive:

- Must isolate for 5 days from symptom onset
- May return to work on day 6
- Must properly mask for days 6-10.

MPISD Child Development Center Students:

Enrolled students who come into close contact (within 6 feet for 15 or more minutes without a face covering) with a lab-confirmed case of COVID-19, must follow the following protocol.

Household Cases:

If someone in the student's household test positive for COVID-19, the student must isolate. For the safety of all staff and children, the student will not be able to attend the Child Development Center until the end of a **14 days** isolation period.

Classroom Contact:

If someone in the student's classroom (staff or child) test positive for COVID-19, the classroom students must isolate. For the safety of all staff and children, students will not be able to attend the Child Development Center until the end of a **14 days** isolation period.