



# COVID-19 Protocol

## 2023-2024

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### General Guidelines

- Maintain social distancing when practical.
- All students and employees who are sick are required to stay home.
- For non-COVID-19 related illnesses (where a student is running a fever), the student must be fever-free for 24 hours. (without the use of fever-reducing medication)
- Non-essential visitors will be limited.

### Face Coverings

- Face masks will be available to all students and staff at no cost.

### Clean Hands and Hygiene

- School staff will educate students and staff on the importance of proper and frequent handwashing, and the necessity to refrain from touching mouths, eyes, ears, and faces.
- Frequent handwashing will be required.

### Safe and Healthy Facilities & Buses

- Bus drivers will clean and disinfect the interior surfaces of all buses daily, including seats, windows, doors, bars, etc.
- Custodial staff will clean and disinfect all surfaces in buildings nightly. In the event of a confirmed positive case, the area, office, or classroom will be fogged.
- Building administrators will verify that facilities have been properly cleaned.

### Positive Cases & Exposures

- McIntosh County Schools will follow the CDC Guidelines. Changes will be made based on the CDC recommendations or the local Board of Education's guidance.

### Positive Cases

- All positive cases confirmed with a test provided by a medical facility, or a home test will be required to promptly report the cases to our designated channels.

**Return to Building:** If you test positive for COVID-19, please refrain from entering the school building until you have been fever-free (without the use of fever-reducing medication) for at least 24 hours.

**Return to Normal Activities:** You may resume your normal activities when, for at least 24 hours: Your symptoms are improving overall, and you have not had a fever (and are not using fever-reducing medication).

**Precautions for the Next 5 Days:** Upon returning to normal activities, we ask you to take additional precautions over the next 5 days. This may include practicing enhanced hygiene, maintaining cleaner air, wearing masks, and physical distancing to the extent practical.

**Important Considerations:**

While you may feel better, keep in mind that you may still be able to spread the virus to others, even if symptoms have improved. Your level of contagiousness may vary, depending on factors such as the duration and severity of your illness. Please follow your physician's guidance if they recommend an extended time out.

**Monitoring Your Health:**

If you experience a recurrence of fever or a deterioration of symptoms after resuming normal activities, we urge you to stay home and away from others until, for at least 24 hours: Your symptoms show improvement overall, and you have not had a fever (and are not using fever-reducing medication). Continue to take added precautions for the subsequent 5 days.

**Exposures**

- McIntosh County Schools will not require a quarantine period for "any" close contact.

**Review**

- These protocols are subject to change based on guidance, mandates, and circumstances that may arise as we proceed.
- Semi-annual reviews will occur at the end of each semester and prior to the start of the next semester.

*Revised: 3/5/2024*