

Midvale School District

COVID-19 Response Plan 2023-present

Released for Public Input 7/25/21

Mission: To nurture growth in knowledge, skills and character.

This plan is a working document that was developed by the Midvale School District in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ramifications resulting moving forward. The plan considered input from stakeholders and is intended to provide operational guidance for the Midvale School District during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Providing a safe return to in-person learning for students, staff, and visitors and keeping our schools fully open for in-person learning is our top priority. This plan is intended to provide a structural framework for school operations. (The plan is subject to change as COVID-19 conditions that have a potential impact on the District evolve.)

Objective:

To provide a safe and effective in-person educational experience and environment for students, staff, and visitors.

Agreements and Understandings:

- Full-time in-person student learning is our goal for all students.
- The MSD has an obligation to provide a safe, reliable, and effective educational experience for all students.
- The MSD reopening plan is designed to provide in-person education to students.
- The MSD does not plan to offer an online school.
- Specific to this MSD COVID-19 Response Plan 2023-present, the Board of Trustees will consider guidelines issued by local, State, and national health officials and organizations in the continued development of this Plan.
- At any time the Board of Trustees or the Superintendent of Schools may increase COVID-19 mitigation protocols or programming for the District.

Assumptions:

- COVID-19 and its variants may have an influence on District operations.
- Given there are inherent risks of exposure to COVID-19 to those attending public schools, the intent of this plan is to reduce, not eliminate, the risk of exposure during school operations and activities.
- To the extent reasonable, the District will establish precautions in an effort to continue to offer students a traditional learning environment.
- Each of us have a responsibility to do our part to help minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

Prevention:

Students, staff, parents, and visitors must *monitor their own health conditions and do their part* as applicable to reduce the possibility of the transmission of COVID-19 to others.

1. Individuals should stay home if they are ill or:
 - a. If they show symptoms associated with COVID-19, including:
 - Having an oral temperature of 100.4 F or greater
 - Have a cough or experience shortness of breath
 - Experience cold like symptoms, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headache, or muscle or body aches or fatigue
 - Experience a recent loss of smell or taste
 - b. If they have had close contact with someone who is either 1) showing symptoms associated with COVID-19, 2) who is being investigated for COVID-19, or 3) who has been diagnosed with COVID-19 in the last 14 days
 - c. Notify the school of any current COVID-19 testing, positive results, or exposure to someone confirmed to have COVID-19
2. Everyone will be expected to demonstrate appropriate hygiene practices such as:
 - a. Washing or sanitizing hands frequently
 - b. Appropriately cover mouth when coughing or sneezing
3. Students will be provided guidance on the proper handwashing techniques.
4. Appropriate health and hygiene guidance will be posted in key locations within school facilities.
5. Masks are NOT required. Students, staff, and visitors who would like to wear masks are welcome to do so.
6. Frequent handwashing opportunities will be provided.
7. Hand sanitizer will be available in multiple locations throughout district facilities and events.
8. Frequent sanitizing of high use surfaces will continue.
9. Physical distancing will occur if deemed necessary.
10. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE such as masks, gloves, face shields, and sneeze guard barriers) will be available.

Confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 in a school (Procedure):

- Individual will be isolated and parent contacted in order to have the child picked up from school
- Administration **may** perform an initial level of school related contact tracing
- Southwest District Health Department (SWDHD) will be notified of the case and related circumstances, if appropriate, and school officials will cooperate with SWDHD contact tracing efforts, if appropriate and allowable
- Staff and families who may be impacted will be notified and/or pertinent information will be released by the school
- Additional steps (such as but not limited to encouraging or requiring physical distancing, increased or immediate sanitizing of spaces, or implementing the use of cohorts in the areas of impact around the school) **may** be implemented
- COVID-19 positive persons and their close or direct contacts should follow local, State, national, and/or their own health care provider guidance as it pertains to quarantine or isolation expectations and practices

COVID-19 Related Student Absences:

Students and/or parents should notify the school immediately and provide appropriate documentation or evidence of any COVID-19 related student absences.

- Parents should immediately request homework for the time their child will be quarantined at home.
- A district device can be made available, at the request of a student or parent, to any student who is in quarantine or isolation at home as a result of a COVID-19 related condition, and who needs a device in order to access their schoolwork while at home.
- Attendance policies have been altered to accommodate COVID-19 related conditions.

Unfinished Student Learning:

- ESSER and/or other District funds will be used to address the learning or unfinished learning needs of students, including students with disabilities. Funds will be used to:
 - Provide additional support for students who are performing below their peers or below proficiency in grades K-12 during the school day.
 - Provide summer learning opportunities for students in grades K-4
 - Provide correspondence courses or other credit recovery opportunities for students who are behind in credits or who are not on track to graduate on time
 - Purchase additional curriculum, materials, equipment, or other resources necessary to address unfinished student learning
 - To help address the individual health and safety needs of all students including those with disabilities

Addressing Social/Emotional Needs:

- ESSER or other District funds can be used to support the social/emotional needs of individual students.
- A Counselor will be available at school to support the social/emotional needs of students.
- The District will post flyers that contain resources that are available to assist students and staff in meeting their mental health needs.

Food Services:

- MSD Food Services will operate in accordance with current NSLP guidelines or regulations and within the limitations of any waivers that have been approved for the MSD by the USDA. Waivers approved for the MSD by the USDA may include flexibility with respect to:
 - How meals are served – (including serving times, whether meals are served on trays or in sacks, self-serve options etc.)
 - Where meals may be served – (in a cafeteria or alternate location such as a community line)
 - Where meals may be eaten – (cafeteria or alternate locations)
 - The cost of meals to students – (free to all students or only for those who qualify)
 - Other flexibilities identified in any individual waiver approved by the USDA for the MSD

Transportation:

- Buses and bus surfaces will be disinfected frequently.
- The use of assigned seating or cohort seating will be maintained as appropriate based on individual bus ridership.

- Sanitizer will be made available on each bus.

Extra-curricular Activities and Other School Events:

- Extra-curricular activities will operate within the guidelines set in this Plan, set by the IHSAA or the Long Pin League Conference.

Timeline for Review of the MSD COVID-19 Response Plan 2023-present:

- The Board of Trustees can consider changes and updates to this Plan during each monthly meeting.
- Stakeholder feedback will be accepted by the Board at any time.
- A formal review of this Plan will occur in December and June of the Plan year.

Resources

- CDC Website
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/>
- SWDHD Website on COVID-19
 - <https://phd3.idaho.gov/covid19/>
- SWDHD Illness Decision Tree for Schools
 - <https://phd3.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Illness-Decision-Tree-for-Schools-Version-1.6.pdf>
- CDC Guidance on When to Quarantine
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html#:~:text=People%20who%20have%20tested%20positi,ve,do%20not%20develop%20new%20symptoms>
- CDC Options to Reduce Quarantine
 - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html>
- SWDHD Isolation and Quarantine Guidance
 - <https://phd3.idaho.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/COVID-19-Isolation-and-Quarantine-Guidance-12.11.2020.pdf>