

COVID-19 PREPAREDNESS

FOR THE 2020-21 SCHOOL YEAR

We realize that when we look at reopening our school, a big question on everyone's mind is "can the school keep my child and the staff safe from COVID-19?" As we move forward to reopening our schools, we would like for you to know that we have been working diligently in order to be able to reopen with an environment that will protect students, teachers, administrators, and staff.

COVID-19 is mostly spread by respiratory droplets released when people talk, cough, or sneeze. It is thought that the virus may spread to hands from a contaminated surface and then to the nose or mouth, causing infection. Therefore, personal prevention practices, environmental cleaning, and disinfection procedures are important.

MSD of Shakamak promotes and encourages behaviors, operations, and procedures that reduce the spread of COVID-19. These include:

Staying at home when appropriate

- Employees and students who are sick or who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 are encouraged to stay home.
- Staff and students should stay home if they have tested positive or are showing COVID-19 symptoms. These individuals should follow the CDC's guidelines for home isolation.
- Staff and students who have recently had close contact with a person with COVID-19 should also stay home and monitor their health.

Hand washing, hand sanitizer, and using tissue

- We will encourage handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and increase monitoring to ensure adherence among students and staff.
- If soap and water are not readily available, hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol will be used. Hand sanitizers will be available in every classroom and throughout the school buildings.

- We will encourage staff and students to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue. Used tissues should be thrown in the trash and hands washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer.

Social distancing

- In addition to everyday steps to prevent COVID-19, we will attempt to keep a six-foot space between individuals. It is one of the best tools that we have to avoid being exposed to this virus and slowing its spread. However, it will not always be possible to accomplish this in a school setting.

Face coverings

- Whenever social distancing is not possible, the use of face coverings will be recommended.
- We will be teaching and reinforcing the use of face coverings. We realize that face coverings may be challenging for students, especially younger students to wear in all-day settings, such as school. Face coverings should be worn by staff and students (particularly older students) as feasible, and are most essential in times when physical distancing is difficult.
- Individuals will be frequently reminded not to touch the face covering and to wash their hands frequently.

Supplies

- We will provide adequate supplies, including soap, hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol, paper towels, tissues, disinfectant wipes, face coverings (as feasible), no-touch trash cans, and automatic water bottler dispensers at water fountains.

Signs and Messages

- Signage will be posted in highly visible locations (e.g., school entrances, restrooms) that promote everyday protective measures and ways to stop the spread of germs, such as properly washing hands and properly wearing a face covering.
- Regular announcements on reducing the spread of COVID-19 will be shared and broadcasted on PA systems.

Cleaning and Disinfection

- Cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces within the school and on school buses will be done at least daily or between use as much as possible. The use of shared objects should be limited when possible, or cleaned between use.
- We have developed a schedule for increased routine cleaning and disinfection of the school buildings.
- We will ensure safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfection products, including storing products securely away from children.
- We will use products that meet the EPA disinfection criteria.
- The cleaning products will not be used near children, and staff will ensure that there is adequate ventilation when using these products.

Water systems

- We have installed automatic filling water bottle dispensers at the water fountains. Individuals are encouraged to have their own water bottle.

Modified layouts in classrooms and on buses

- When possible, we will space seating/desks at least six feet apart.
- When possible, we will turn desks to face in the same direction (rather than facing each other), or have students sit on only one side of tables, spaced apart.
- When possible, we will create distance between children on school buses.

Physical barriers and guides

- We have installed physical barriers, such as sneeze guards and partitions, particularly in areas where it is difficult for individuals to remain at least six feet apart.
- We will provide physical guides, such as tape on floors or sidewalks and signs on walls, to ensure that staff and students remain at least six feet apart in lines and at other times.

Food service

- Individually plated meals will be served.
- Disposable food service items will be used.

- If food is offered at any event, we will have pre-packaged boxes or bagged items, when possible.

On-line learning options for students at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19

- We have created the Laker Online Connection (LOC). The LOC will give students two full-time on-line options to do their work off campus for the 2020-21 school year.
- One full-time on-line option in the LOC uses Google Classroom. This option is for K-12 students. Students enrolled in this option will receive instruction from the Shakamak teacher(s) via Google Classroom. The instruction may be live-streamed and/or recorded.
- The other full-time on-line option in the LOC uses Apex Learning. This option is for students in Grades 6-12. Students log into the Apex Learning digital curriculum and complete core and elective courses to earn credits toward grade-level advancement and high school graduation.
- When possible, we will provide Chromebooks for students without devices. Parents and students will be held liable and responsible for any damage to the loaned device(s).
- It is also important to point out that these full-time on-line options are rigorous and the students are expected to work diligently and meet all of the requirements and timelines/deadlines associated with the on-line options.

Gatherings, Visitors, Field Trips, and Athletics

- We will be pursuing virtual group events, gatherings, or meetings, if possible. We will promote social distancing between people, if events are held and limit group size to the maximum permissible amount.
- We will limit any nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations.
- We will be pursuing virtual activities and events in lieu of field trips, student assemblies, special performances, and school-wide meetings.
- We will be following the guidelines issued by the Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) for athletics.

Designated COVID-19 Point of Contact

- We have designated our school nurse as the person to be responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns.

Recognize signs and symptoms

- Parents are asked to do a self-check of their child before sending him/her to school.
- Employees are to perform a self-check on themselves before coming to the school campus.
- People with COVID-19 have had a wide range of symptoms ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Symptoms include fever (temperature over 100.4), 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, and diarrhea.

Isolation of those who are sick

- We will immediately separate staff and students with COVID-19 symptoms at school. Individuals who are sick should go home or to a healthcare facility depending on how severe their symptoms are, and follow the CDC guidelines for caring for oneself and others who are sick.
- We will have a designated isolation area to separate anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms or tests positive but does not have symptoms.

Clean and Disinfect

- We will close off areas used by a sick person and do not use these areas until after cleaning and disinfecting occurs.
- We will wait at least 24 hours before cleaning and disinfecting. If 24 hours is not feasible, we will wait as long as possible.

Notify Health Officials

- In accordance with state and local laws and regulations, we will notify the local health department immediately of any case of COVID-19 while maintaining confidentiality in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities ACT (ADA).