

Molalla River School District

Fall 2021- FAQs

Mask/ Face Covering Requirement

Q: How will the mask requirement be managed in my child's school?

Mask wearing will be handled this year much the way it was handled with the initial mandate. Students and staff will be expected to wear masks while in the school setting except when eating, drinking or taking masks breaks. (Students will be permitted mask breaks that are physically distanced from other students for a limited period of time.) Certain accommodations for medical needs or disability may be necessary and will be accommodated following the process prescribed by ODE. A school will provide reasonable accommodations and otherwise comply with the ADA, the Rehabilitation Act, and the Individuals with Disabilities Act.

Q: What is the process for student refusal to wear a mask?

A: Our schools will work with students and their families to determine the best way to reteach and enforce mask expectations while at school. If there is a student or family who chooses to not wear a mask for reasons other than medical need or disability, school administration will work with the family to determine the best course of action that balances the student's education and the health and safety of other students. In this instance, the student who does not want to wear a mask may need to be served via remote learning.

Q: Do three and four year old children in K-12 settings need to wear masks?

A: Per the [Masking Requirements in Schools](#) mandate, any individual who is at the K-12 school site who is 2 years and older (including visitors) **are required** to wear a mask indoors during school hours. That said, three and four year old children in a K-12 indoor setting are required to wear a mask.

Contact Tracing/ Exclusion/ Quarantine

Q: Who is considered a close contact?

A: Public Health Guidelines defines a close contact as being 6 feet or closer in proximity for 15 minutes or more cumulatively in a 24 hours period. In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) where both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of wellfitting masks.

Q. What is the difference between exclusion and quarantine?

A: Quarantine is the separation of individuals who have been exposed to an infectious disease during the maximum incubation period or the maximum time it would take someone to become sick with the same infectious disease. This is 14 days for COVID-19.

Exclusion is the administrative responsibility to exclude students or staff from the school setting based on symptoms that an individual exhibits or based on a specific diagnosis. While quarantine is intended to ensure exposed individuals remain at home the appropriate duration, this is beyond the scope of the school administration. The school district can only ensure that infectious or potentially infectious individuals do not enter the school buildings during the designated time frames.

Quarantine ultimately is a public health responsibility. While exclusion is the school district's obligation under existing legislation. Exclusion may be for the duration of quarantine, the duration of isolation, or the duration of symptoms resolution or treatment, depending on the reason. Exclusion is not specific to COVID-19.

Q: Does vaccination status impact, or reduce the exclusion or quarantine rules?

A: Individuals who are vaccinated may not be excluded/quarantined following an exposure. Public Health guidelines state that vaccinated individuals who are exposed to COVID-19 should instead monitor their symptoms for 14 days. It is best to be tested 3-5 days after exposure for vaccinated individuals, per state guidelines.

Visitors/ Volunteers

Q: What is the policy on visitors and volunteers for the 2021-2022 school year?

A: One of the District's priorities for the 2021-22 school year is to keep students in our school buildings for in-person learning as many days as possible. As such, we will be limiting non-essential visitors and volunteers into our schools until at least 10/18/2021. We will work with parents/parent groups to determine if some volunteer work may be feasible when students are not in our buildings.

Parent volunteers and involvement have always been an essential part of our school community, and we look forward to the time that we will be able to welcome them back. We will review this policy in October, in concert with the Covid-19 public health mitigation recommendations at that time. Further, per the Governor's order on August 19th, volunteers in our schools **must** be vaccinated against Covid-19.

Q: Can parents walk students to class in the 2021-2022 school year?

A: Per the MRSD operational plan and safety protocol, we are postponing all visitors and volunteers coming into our schools until at least 10/18/2021.

Lunchtime Practices

Q. What is the policy on distancing at lunch when space is limited in school settings?

A. Lunchtime may be handled differently at each school based on the physical space in the building and the number of students in attendance each day. Students will be at least 3ft apart, and 6 ft apart when feasible during lunchtime. All students will be asked to leave their masks on until they are actively eating/drinking, and then asked to replace their mask when finished.

Classroom Practices

Q: What is the practice for shared items at school?

A: High touch items such as pens, pencils, crayons and scissors can be a source of spreading germs. Sharing of these items is discouraged. [\[CDC\]](#)

Q. Can soft surfaces and items be returned to the classroom?

A: Recent research suggests that COVID does not remain viable on soft surfaces, specifically with indirect contact with face or hands the way it may of hard surfaces directly touched by hands, thus soft surfaces pose little risk in transmission [\[Johns Hopkins\]](#)

Transportation Practices

Q. Will my student be required to wear a mask while on the school bus?

A: Yes. Face Coverings are still required on public transportation, which includes school buses. The CDC order for mandatory use of face coverings on public transit applies to school buses until lifted by the federal government and cannot be waived by state or local authorities (CDC, Issued 2/1/2021).

Athletics

Q: Can student athletes (volleyball, dance, cheer) competing inside be exempt from mask wearing? Is there a difference between active participation and observing?

A. Molalla River School District will follow all OSAA guidance for indoor and outdoor recreation and activities. Schools and athletic programs will adhere to facility capacity requirements.

- Face coverings will be optional for all athletes during all school-sponsored practice and competitions.
- Face coverings will be required for all student-athletes/participants, school employees (including coaches), and volunteers while transporting to and from school sponsored competitions and/or activity.
- Face covering will be required for all spectators at indoor or outdoor athletic competition or practices.