

COVID Protocols

Updates

- MedBot Screening Active
- Testing/Screening Program Provisioned – Ready when needed
- Weekly State Reporting of Positive Student/Staff Cases reinstated
 - To Be Posted to District Website

Upcoming Decisions Points

- DESE Masking Mandate – October 1
- Employee Vaccination Requirement

	9/13-15		9/16-22	
	Student	Staff	Student	Staff
Essex Elementary	1	0	0	0
Memorial School	1	1	0	0
Middle School	2	0	0	0
High School	2	0	0	0

Fall 2021 COVID Procedures

Priority Goals:

- Student and Staff Health & Safety
- Open in and sustain full in-person instruction
- Minimize staff and student absences

Considerations:

- Ensuring Access to All Students
- Support of Local Health Team
- Regional Metrics
- Availability of vaccination for all students and call for booster for those vaccinated
 - Grade Levels at Each School
- Manageable to Implement
- Number of Staff & Students indoors for extended periods of time
- Relies on Methods that have worked to prevent in school spread
- Lack of information about the Delta variant
- Allows for rollback as more information becomes available

Fall 2021 COVID Procedures

Recommendation:

- Follow the CDC Prevention Strategies & Recommendations for Masking and Distancing
- Implement Layered Mitigation
 - CDC recommends universal indoor masking, physical distancing to the extent possible, and additional prevention strategies to protect students, teachers, and staff. Schools should not exclude students from in-person learning to keep a minimum distance requirement; layering multiple prevention strategies is essential when physical distancing of at least 3 feet is not possible at all times.*
- Monthly Conditions Report and Reevaluation (1st SC Meeting of the month)

What it Looks Like – Modified Spring 2021

Fall 2021 COVID Procedures

CDC Prevention Strategies

- [Promoting vaccination](#)
- [Consistent and correct mask use](#)
- [Physical distancing](#)
- [Screening testing to promptly identify cases, clusters, and outbreaks](#)
- [Ventilation](#)
- [Handwashing and respiratory etiquette](#)
- [Staying home when sick and getting tested](#)
- [Contact tracing, in combination with isolation and quarantine](#)
- [Cleaning and disinfection](#)

Fall 2021 COVID Procedures

MERSD Application of consistent and correct mask use & physical distancing

- Masks required for all staff and students indoor activities and on buses (except for medical exemption)
- Maintain three feet distancing guidelines when organizing physical space (classrooms/cafes)
 - Single desk seating at lunches
- Public admittance to building by appointment only / masks required
- No Restrictions Outdoors

Fall 2021 COVID Procedures

MERSD Application of screening testing to promptly identify cases, clusters, and outbreaks, Screening testing to promptly identify cases, clusters, and outbreaks, Staying home when sick and getting tested, Contact tracing, in combination with isolation and quarantine

- Continue with MedBot Daily Screener
- Implement the DESE Diagnostic Testing Program
 - *Symptomatic Testing*: (for when individuals present symptoms while at school; individuals should not go to school if experiencing symptoms while at home): Shallow nasal swab samples are collected at school using the BinaxNOW rapid antigen test or another approved diagnostic test.
 - *"Test and Stay" (close contact testing)*: Shallow nasal swab samples are collected at school using the BinaxNOW rapid antigen test or another approved diagnostic test. Tests are administered daily from the first day of exposure for at least five (5) days.
- Follow DESE quarantine guidance for those who opt out of “ Test and Stay”

Screening & Testing

Layered Mitigation - Three components targeted at minimizing the risk of COVID being spread at school:

- Daily Screening – MyMedBot
- Symptomatic Testing
- Test & Stay for Close Contacts
- The testing program is voluntary. Students will need permission order to be tested, and parents/guardians will be contacted as needed for consent.
 - If an individual or family chooses not to participate, a close contact will need to quarantine at home for at least 7 days from the point of exposure

Screening & Testing

General Definition of Close Contact: Close contacts are defined as individuals who have been within 6 feet of a COVID-19 positive individual while indoors, for at least 15 minutes during a 24-hour period.

Close contacts exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols

- **Asymptomatic, fully vaccinated close contacts:** Individuals who are asymptomatic and fully vaccinated are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- **Classroom close contacts:** An individual who is exposed to a COVID-19 positive individual in the classroom while both individuals were masked, so long as the individuals were spaced at least 3 feet apart, is exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- **Bus close contacts:** Individuals on buses must be masked according to federal requirements. As such, individuals who are masked on buses when windows are open are exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols.
- **Close contacts who have had COVID-19 within the past 90 days:** An individual who has been previously diagnosed with COVID-19 and then becomes a close contact of someone with COVID-19 is exempt from testing and quarantine response protocols if:
 - The exposure occurred within 90 days of the onset of their own illness AND
 - The exposed individual is recovered and remains without COVID-19 symptoms.

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Fall 2021 COVID Procedures

MERSD Application of ventilation and cleaning and disinfection

- Standards Remain in Place from 2020-2021
 - [MERSD Facilities Cleaning Protocol](#)
 - [HVAC Report](#)

MERSD Application hand washing and respiratory etiquette

- Continue Hygiene stations and school based routines

County	Town	Age Group	Population	Proportion of town population	Individuals with at least one dose	Individuals with at least one dose per capita	Proportion of town individuals with at least one dose	Fully vaccinated individuals	Fully vaccinated individuals per capita	Proportion of town fully vaccinated individuals	Partially vaccinated individuals	Partially vaccinated individuals per capita	Proportion of town partially vaccinated individuals
Essex	Manchester	12-15 Years	312	6%	280	90%	7%	245	78%	6%	35	11%	13%
Essex	Manchester	16-19 Years	307	6%	318	>95%	8%	290	94%	8%	*	*	*
Essex	Manchester	20-29 Years	362	7%	339	94%	8%	308	85%	8%	31	9%	12%
Essex	Manchester	30-49 Years	860	18%	804	94%	20%	746	87%	19%	58	7%	22%
Essex	Manchester	50-64 Years	1,294	26%	1,187	92%	29%	1,132	88%	30%	55	4%	21%
Essex	Manchester	65-74 Years	711	15%	693	>95%	17%	655	92%	17%	38	5%	15%
Essex	Manchester	75+ Years	511	10%	468	92%	11%	453	89%	12%	*	*	*
Essex	Manchester	Total	4,899	100%	4,089	83%	100%	3,829	78%	100%	*	*	*
Essex	Essex	12-15 Years	224	6%	144	64%	6%	123	55%	5%	*	*	*
Essex	Essex	16-19 Years	195	5%	149	76%	6%	136	70%	6%	*	*	*
Essex	Essex	20-29 Years	385	10%	243	63%	9%	221	57%	9%	*	*	*
Essex	Essex	30-49 Years	854	23%	679	79%	26%	633	74%	26%	46	5%	33%
Essex	Essex	50-64 Years	893	24%	745	83%	29%	722	81%	30%	*	*	*
Essex	Essex	65-74 Years	466	13%	392	84%	15%	383	82%	16%	*	*	*
Essex	Essex	75+ Years	253	7%	220	87%	9%	216	85%	9%	*	*	*
Essex	Essex	Total	3,728	100%	2,572	69%	100%	2,434	65%	100%	*	*	*