



Health and Safety Measures

Version 1, 16 July 2020

Prologue

Since the Coronavirus is a novel virus with no vaccination and/or known immunity, social distancing measures, infection control practices and sanitation are our biggest defenses. MSI will re-open the charter school program at the direction of the Governor of South Carolina. The purpose of this guidance is to ensure that, when MSI students and staff return to campus, the adults and children are taking every reasonable precaution to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The measures outlined below will remain in effect until formally lifted at the direction of the Executive Director / Principal and announced publicly.

Health & Safety Guidelines

- Temperature as an Indicator
 - Parents will be advised to measure and record their child(ren)'s temperature in the morning prior to bringing them to school. If the child's temperature is 100 degrees or greater, he or she must be kept at home until fever free for 24 hours, in the absence of fever-reducing medications (per DHEC Guidelines).

- An MSI staff member will take the temperatures of all students a second upon arrival at school using a temporal artery contactless thermometer before allowing the students to be dropped off. If the child's temperature is 100 degrees or greater, the child must return home immediately and the MSI staff member will report the temperature to the school nurse for recording and reporting. The school nurse will immediately notify administration.
 - Faculty and Staff members will measure their temperature at home and remain there if they have a temperature of 100 degrees or greater.
 - All staff members will have their temperatures taken upon arrival at school each day. The same procedures as described above apply to staff members.
 - Only staff and students reporting temperatures greater than 100 degrees will be reported to the school nurse and administration.
- Social Distancing
 - In an effort to reduce the spread of infection, parents must drop their children off in the car rider line and will not be permitted to enter the school building(s) or walk their children to the classroom door. Parents are required to practice social distancing and wear a mask when speaking with a staff member at Drop Off or Pickup or when visiting the office.
 - Faculty, staff, and children 5 years of age and older are required to wear a face mask or shield when they cannot maintain a six-foot social distance. For staff and student mask and face shield guidelines, see the article (below) from the Bloomberg School of Public Health.
 - Faculty and Staff members will avoid congregating in common areas.
 - Classroom Teachers and Extended Day Teachers will make every effort to ensure students maintain work areas 6 feet apart from their nearest neighbor. Classrooms may not allow more students than can be accommodated with the six-foot rule.
 - Children will work at separate, assigned work stations (mats, desks, or tables) and will be permitted to walk around the classroom only when masked. Mats and desks will be sanitized daily.
 - Food preparation and service changes:
 - No self-serve snacks
 - Parents provide individually packaged snacks for their own child
 - Disposable plates, cups and utensils only
 - Children cannot assist with food prep
 - During recess, teachers will ensure students play in small groups.

- Waving, elbow bumps at a distance, and smiles will replace hugging, handshaking, high fives and other forms of contact until further notice.
- MSI implements “Hand Hygiene” upon return to school. This exercise includes washing or sanitizing hands every hour by everyone present at school. In addition, everyone will practice “Hand Hygiene” upon entering any school building, before eating, after eating and as needed (i.e. especially after blowing one’s nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom, etc.). Handwashing posters will remind children and faculty of the requirement and method.
- Cleaning
 - The school’s cleaning service has conducted a special disinfection.
 - Classroom and office staff will intensify cleaning and disinfecting efforts, including but not limited to frequently disinfecting items that are touched often (doorknobs, faucets, etc.), and cleaning the classrooms daily with a non-toxic, school safety approved sanitizing solution. Shared materials will be cleaned after each use by an additional staff member dedicated to this function. If the school operates a split schedule, all materials handled will be disinfected between morning and afternoon sessions (as well as at the end of each day).
- Other Safety Measures
 - Parents must provide certain materials such as colored pencils/crayons in a 1:1 ratio.
 - Student mats will be placed further apart and more space will be provided between cubby areas/storage spaces to help prevent the mixing of children’s belongings.
 - Prior to the re-opening, staff members will attend an in-service on COVID-19 information and new protocols (how it spreads, requirement for face masks, hand washing requirements, material sanitizing, proper cleaning techniques, food prep and service, what to do if a child displays symptoms).
 - Parents may not leave their cars during drop off or pick up unless signing in tardy students, early dismissal, or for scheduled appointments.
 - Parents may not observe in classrooms.
- Identifying and Processing Symptomatic Students or Staff Members

- MSI is not screening students or staff specifically to identify cases of COVID-19. If the school has a sick child (including symptoms of COVID-19), a staff member will notify the school nurse for further guidance. Students or staff members with symptoms of COVID-19 *will* be excluded from the school building if they have any one of the following:
 - Fever
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Loss of taste or smell
 - Muscle aches
 - Chills
 - New or worsening cough
- NOTE: Any child or staff member with any one of these symptoms should consider not attending school regardless of meeting exclusion criteria. ([See DHEC School and Childcare Exclusion List](#)). If these symptoms are explainable by an underlying cause (such as shortness of breath for an individual with asthma) exclusion may not be necessary. The School Nurse shall make the final determination for attendance.
- MSI *will* isolate students or staff members with symptoms of COVID-19 *in the designated area* until they can leave campus.
- *Should a student or staff member contract symptoms or test positive for COVID-19 the school nurse will immediately inform the Administration and DHEC. The Administration will then inform the Charter Institute, and provide updates on each case as necessary.*
- Students and staff members will be moved safely, respectfully, and in accordance with applicable privacy laws and regulations, to the isolation area for evaluation. They will wear masks. Students will be supervised by a staff member who maintains at least six feet of distance and uses appropriate PPE.
- The School Nurse will use Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions when caring for the person with symptoms. See: “What Healthcare Personnel Should Know About Caring for Patients with Confirmed or Possible COVID19 Infection.”
- MSI *requires* sick staff members and children not to return to school until they have met the criteria for return.
- Students or staff members excluded for these symptoms should not return until they have either tested negative for COVID-19 or a medical evaluation determines that their symptoms were more likely due to another cause (e.g. sore throat due to strep throat). In this later case, the individual can return when they meet criteria for that condition.

- Students or staff members who require testing for COVID-19 will require a negative PCR test or must complete the current isolation criteria for COVID-19 to return to school.
- Current isolation criteria for COVID-19. Students and staff who test positive for COVID-19 and persons with symptoms of COVID-19 (see list above) who do not get tested and who have not been evaluated by a medical provider to determine their symptoms are not COVID-19 related, should isolate until:
 - Ten (10) days have passed since symptoms started, and
 - 72 hours have passed since last fever without taking medicine to reduce fever, and
 - Overall improvement in symptoms.
- Those who test positive by a PCR test but do not have symptoms will be required to stay out of school until ten (10) days after the specimen was collected.
- The criteria above will be used to determine eligibility to return to school. Negative PCR test results are not required after meeting these criteria.
- Classroom contacts to a known COVID-19 case will remain together in the same cohort to the extent that is possible. They will receive screening for fever and symptoms (see above) each morning until 14 days after last contact with the case.
- Anyone identified as a classroom contact of a case and who has symptoms of COVID-19 will be sent home and quarantined and will be required to get tested to return to school. This individual will continue to receive virtual instruction during the quarantine period.

- Quarantine

Some students or staff members may be told they were a close contact to a case of COVID-19 and have to complete a quarantine period. This means they will be required to stay home so they do not risk exposing others to COVID-19 if they become sick. The school nurse will inform them of the length of their quarantine period. For students, a doctor's note that they have been cleared from quarantine may be used to allow return to school.

- Household contact: If the student or staff member lives in the same household as the infected person, they will have to self-quarantine until seven (7) days after their household member has been cleared from their isolation period.

- Other household members in quarantine: If the student or staff lives in the same household as someone in quarantine, they will not necessarily need to quarantine themselves unless the household member in quarantine is then determined to be a COVID-19 case. The school nurse will notify those who are required to complete quarantine.
- Parents will sign an agreement that they will support the measures outlined above before their children may attend school.

Epilogue

The policies outlined above will continue to evolve as the country moves through the phases of reopening, and as impacts of initial reopening regulations become understood. MSC will continue to monitor state and federal changes and notify parents of any changes to this document.

Points of Reference

- [CR-010752.pdf](#) Click here for an excellent guide for when to keep your child home from school (though it is not COVID-19 specific)
- [denmark-schools-coronavirus.html](#)
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/guidance-for-schools.html>
- Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, “The Right Mask for the Task,” 20 March 2020
<https://www.jhsph.edu/covid-19/articles/the-right-mask-for-the-task.html>
- Montessori Public Policy Institute, “School and Child Care Reopening: Policy and Funding Considerations” (also posted on the MAAD page of the MSC web site).
- Presnell, Adrienne, “COVID-19 An Illustrated Guide” by (Listed in the MAAD Handbook under resources for families) with your child(ren) to foster an understanding of the rationale and measures put in place for their safety.
- *South Carolina DHEC, Interim Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) PPE Use Guidance for School Nurses and Unlicensed Assistive Personnel (UAP)*
- *South Carolina DHEC, Interim COVID-19 guidance for schools: Management of suspect and confirmed COVID-19 cases*
- *“What Healthcare Personnel Should Know About Caring for Patients with Confirmed or Possible COVID19 Infection.”*

Note: This guidance is consistent with information available as of June 26, 2020 and may be updated as new information on this novel virus and evolving situation become available.