

# Maine Indian Education Student Health and Safety Guidance Document

## Guidance on School Health Practices

Consistent with Tribal Government directives, Governor Mill's phased reopening plan for Maine schools, and guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Maine Indian Education is providing the following guidance to staff regarding school health practices for students:

**Schools will follow all CDC, Maine Department of Education, Bureau of Indian Education, and the Indian Health Services guidance for reopening schools:**

### All Phases

Prior to the reopening of the school, school administrators must identify the following:

#### **Isolation Room Establishment, Requirements, and Staffing:**

- The predetermined isolation room is a designated location.
- A designated staff member must be assigned to supervise students while in the predetermined isolation room should the need arise. The staff member will be provided with a gown, gloves, and a face shield as appropriate. The staff member assigned should complete the training on COVID-19 and use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- The Personal Protective Equipment - MIE will provide staff training on the proper use of PPE
- Staff will need to be available at various times throughout the day to supervise any student exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 while awaiting pick up by the parent or guardian.

#### **Daily Temperature Checks- Procedure and Staffing Requirements:**

- Each school will be equipped with a thermal imaging kiosk that will monitor and document student and staff temperatures. A kiosk will be at the main entry of each building.

- Designated staff must be available throughout the day to take temperatures of students upon arrival or during the instructional day, as necessary.
- Staff will be provided with appropriate PPE and training in its use.
- Temperatures will be taken each day upon arrival for all students. Students will be screened prior to boarding the bus and again before entry into the school building.
- Temperatures of any students may be taken throughout the day.

**\*\*\*\*\*If the temperature of the student is greater than or equal to 100.4°Fahrenheit, the student will be escorted or sent to the predetermined isolation room for further screening. Escorts will maintain 6 feet of social distancing. School staff will then follow the established protocols for Care of the Sick and Injured.**

#### **Protocols for Student Illness and Contact Tracing:**

- MIE is working collaboratively with the IHS to develop protocols for students that become ill during the school day. Each case will be handled individually in accordance with the IHS and CDC established communicable disease and contact tracing protocols.
- IHS and CDC protocols for MIE will be available prior to the beginning of the school year.
- IHS and CDC protocols will be followed should it become necessary to inform parents/guardians of any communicable disease outbreak.
- Below are links from the CDC regarding contact tracing and investigation.
  - [Case Investigation Workflowpdf icon](#) | [PNGimage icon](#)
  - [Contact Tracing Workflowpdf icon](#) |

#### **Daily Health Screening:**

- Families are expected to conduct a [daily health screening](#) for all students attending face-to-face instruction.
- Students will also be asked about their overall health each day upon arrival.

#### **Face Coverings (Cloth or Disposable):**

- All students are required to wear face coverings (cloth or disposable) while on school property (including inside MIE facilities, accessing MIE-provided transportation and school sponsored activities).
- Refer to the CDC for exceptions for the most recent information regarding exceptions. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover-guidance.html>
- Any student not wearing a face covering for any reason, upon arrival at school, will be provided with a disposable mask.

- MIE recognizes that it may be difficult for many students to wear face coverings all day during face-to-face instruction. School staff will build in regular supervised breaks during the instructional day where students may go outdoors and maintain social distance in order to take a break from wearing face coverings.

### **School Supplies and Communal Classroom Items:**

- Each student will be provided with a portable desk barrier. These barriers are made from clear plastic and will add a layer of protection for students and staff.
- Sharing of items that are difficult to clean or disinfect is to be discouraged. Students will be provided with their own set of required classroom supplies.
- Electronic devices, toys, books, games or learning aids are not to be shared unless they can be cleaned or disinfected.
- Students should bring their own water bottle for use during the day. School staff will develop a plan for refilling water bottles, as necessary.
- Whenever possible supplies/school materials should be placed directly into backpacks by students.
- Students will not be using lockers/cubbies.

### **Considerations for Recess:**

- Communal equipment, such as playground equipment, balls, ropes, etc. will not be used.
- School staff should consider teaching students games and recess activities that minimize close physical contact and allow for social distancing.

### **Considerations for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):**

- Personal protective equipment (PPE) refers to protective clothing, gloves, face shields, goggles, facemasks or other equipment designed to protect the wearer from injury or the spread of infection or illness. When used properly, PPE acts as a barrier between infectious materials such as viral and bacterial contaminants and your skin, mouth, nose, or eyes (mucous membranes). When used properly and with other infection control practices such as handwashing, using alcohol-based hand sanitizers, and covering coughs and sneezes, it minimizes the spread of infection from one person to another.
- Cloth face coverings are not considered PPE and should not be used interchangeably either in terminology or practice.
- To minimize the spread of communicable disease, such as COVID-19, PPE should be used correctly. MIE students and staff will receive training at the onset of the school year in the appropriate use of PPE.

- School staff will need to make considerations for the necessary PPE on a case-by-case basis, depending on the activity, physical proximity and level of potential exposure throughout the day.
- MIE Facilities Management, BIE, and MDOE are working to provide the necessary supplies and infrastructure to schools as preparations for reopening and fall activities begin. Supply allocations will be based on the number of employees, student enrollment and program need. MIE is installing social distancing signage (on walls and floors) and individual counter shields in classrooms and offices. MIE is working closely with the IHS and CDC to monitor COVID-19 and provide health and safety information as we prepare to return to work and school.
- Below is a list of all supplies and materials that MIE sites will receive when returning to work. Supplies and Materials for Schools:
  1. Hand sanitizer – automatic dispensing stands for entrances and individual use dispensers will be provided for every classroom.
  2. Face masks/coverings – cloth face coverings or disposable masks will also be available for students, staff and essential building visitors who do not bring their own. Face masks/coverings will be provided for any student who does not have an exemption that prohibits them from wearing a mask.
  3. Gloves – to be used in custodial cleaning and by staff working in special capacities (For example, special education, kitchen staff, bus drivers, etc).
  4. Face shields– for use by bus drivers/attendants and special education staff and students
  5. Gowns – for use by bus drivers/attendants and special education staff
  6. No touch thermometers and thermal imaging kiosks – for use in schools.
  7. Cleaning supplies – additional supplies will be provided for custodians to use during routine and enhanced cleaning.
  8. Spray bottles and paper towels – to be used with cleaning solution during enhanced cleaning by custodians and, possibly, staff cleaning their individual workspaces.

### **Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) Considerations for School Meals:**

- CDC guidance indicates, as feasible, children should be served individually plated meals in classrooms instead of in a communal dining hall or in a cafeteria.
- Given this overarching guidance, MIE will work with staff to coordinate breakfast and lunch service to best meet the needs of students. Students will be served meals in classrooms.
- MIE will continue to provide modified menu offerings for students with documented food allergies, supported by medical accommodation.
- Managing these details will remain a site-based decision and school staff should make all necessary considerations through the lens of following appropriate CDC guidance;

implementation of universal precautions and enhanced cleaning protocols before, during and after meals.

## **Athletic Protocols:**

**This document will be updated with additional information regarding athletic activities as it becomes available and will be consistent with IHS and CDC recommendations.**

## **Reopening Guidance for Cleaning and Disinfecting Schools after COVID-19:**

Measures will be implemented to ensure that common areas and equipment, and personal workspaces, are regularly cleaned and sanitized. MIE has worked closely with school custodians to adjust their cleaning processes to better address current considerations. MIE custodians are using effective disinfectant and sanitizing products to clean our facilities every day. Along with these measures, they are taking the following steps to maximize our sanitizing efforts:

- Refreshed Cleaning Methods/Processes- MIE cleaning personnel will be sanitizing and disinfecting restrooms more frequently. Their cleaning protocol will include thoroughly disinfecting and sanitizing all surfaces, doors, toilets, handles, etc. and ensuring that all supplies are always fully stocked.
- Increased Cleaning to High-Touch Surfaces/Points- MIE cleaning crews will be sanitizing touch surfaces/points thoroughly (i.e., door handles, glass, elevators buttons, doors, tables, chairs, light switches). Custodians have been instructed to continuously disinfect and sanitize all touch points throughout the day. In addition, we will be increasing custodian coverage where appropriate, depending on building occupancy.

## **Specific Instructional Program Considerations:**

Generally, all instructional programs will adhere to the guidelines communicated above. Specific guidelines are listed below. The instructional staff will continue to develop guidelines that are relevant to various instructional programs.

## **ART and Language and Culture Classes:**

- In order to minimize transitions of students, Art and language and culture staff will go to classrooms to support and provide instruction.
- Wash hands for 20 seconds or sanitize hands before/after class
- Students will maintain 6 feet distancing wherever possible
- There should be no shared materials or supplies
- Recommend teacher use face shield or clear mask rather than cloth face covering to support instruction

## **Health and Physical Education (HPE):**

- Recommended social distancing during physical activity is 10 feet
- No Multiple classes in the gym. Dividers to separate spaces and capacity must maintain social distancing requirements in each individual space
- Adapted physical education classes need a separate teaching area with space to maintain social distancing
- During adapted physical education, it may not be possible to maintain social distance. Staff will need appropriate PPE and training.