

Marlborough Elementary School – January 3, 2022

Mask Wearing	Masks will be required in schools through February 15th, per Governor’s Executive Order, unless rescinded or changed.
Mask Exemptions	<p>As outlined in the Updated Guidance for the Use of Mitigation Strategies in Connecticut’s Pre-K Schools, <i>‘The need for a medical exemption for the wearing of face coverings of the styles recommended for use in schools for source control is rare. Medical contraindications to the wearing of cloth or other similar loose-fitting masks are generally limited to individuals suffering from severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) such as might be seen with cystic fibrosis, severe emphysema, heart failure, or significant facial burns that would cause extreme pain or interfere with the healing of a skin graft. These severe medical conditions will be rare in students or staff capable of presenting to the school for work or instruction. Mild or intermittent respiratory or other common conditions such as asthma, cardiovascular diseases, kidney disease, or other similar conditions are generally not considered contraindications to the wearing of face coverings.</i></p> <p>Process: Any requests will need to be reviewed by our district Medical Advisor before the school approves. Students/Staff will be required to wear a mask while the request is in the review process. If approved, other mitigation tools may be required, such as face shields.</p>
Exception to Teachers Wearing Masks While Indoors (for fully vaccinated teachers only)	Per recent state guidance, fully vaccinated teachers may choose to remove their masks when delivering active/direct instruction when “in front of the classroom,” meaning at least 6’ away from students with the students seated and the teacher static. This can be particularly helpful to the delivery of instruction in the primary grades during phonics instruction. At this time, MES is choosing to allow this per the state’s Adapt, Advance, Achieve Fall, 2021 guidance.

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Hand Hygiene	MES will continue to practice excellent hand hygiene as an integral part of our school day. Continuing from last year, hand washing / sanitizing will be completed after using the bathroom or blowing your nose, prior to eating and when returning from outside of the classroom (ie. recess, essential arts).
Cleaning and Ventilation	Custodial crew will complete a thorough nightly cleaning of the building, with special attention to high touch areas and bathrooms. In fall of 2021, rooftop air handlers were serviced and this summer - all classroom blower units were cleaned, and filters were changed out.
Staying Home If Sick and Notify School If Child is COVID-positive	Staff and students should stay home when they are feeling sick with symptoms consistent with COVID19. Please contact our nurse, Alice Mecca, if you have any questions or are needing assistance finding care or diagnostic testing. Please contact the school as soon as you are aware of your child being COVID positive.
Contact Tracing and Quarantine	<p>If there is a COVID positive case, the administration will contact, via email, the parents/guardians of the classroom. If the case was on a bus, parents/guardians of students within a six-foot distance will be emailed.</p> <p>Students who test positive and must isolate as well as students who are deemed close contacts and must be quarantined will be provided with work to complete.</p> <p>Detailed information on COVID Quarantine, Isolation, Testing and Contact Tracing can be found here.</p> <p>If COVID testing is completed with a home testing kit, if possible, please send a screenshot of the results to amecca@marlborough.k12.ct.us (Alice Mecca, School Nurse).</p>

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<p>COVID-19 Self-Test Kit Update</p>	<p>The State of Connecticut is distributing a first phase of Self-Test Kits (“kits”) to all schools throughout the state to be made available for use by Prek-12 students and school staff.</p> <p>The kits are being provided to schools to help further protect staff, children, and families. These rapid home tests are to be used to screen students and staff who are symptomatic to determine who should not be present in school, and therefore will be distributed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a child or staff member exhibits symptoms and needs to be screened for COVID-19, and; • If a child or staff member has a direct exposure to an individual with COVID-19. <p>If a student or staff member tests positive, it is essential that this is reported immediately to the school nurse.</p>
<p>Essential Arts Classes</p>	<p>Children will participate in an essential arts class for a block of three weeks, having the same special each day for 40 minutes. All essential arts classes will take place in the essential arts spaces.</p>
<p>Tier / Enrichment</p>	<p>Tier and enrichment services will return in the fall of 2021. We will use a combination of June 2021 and September 2021 data to create our initial structure. The tier / enrichment block will be 40 minutes long.</p>
<p>6th Grade Academy</p>	<p>Sixth grade students will return to our Sixth Grade Academy model this year, in a modified format. Sixth graders will move as a homeroom cohort to each of their classes/teachers.</p>
<p>Lunch</p>	<p>Starting on January 4, 2022, MES students will return to eating their lunch in their classroom, having masks off when actively eating and drinking.</p>
<p>Recess</p>	<p>Recess is a 30-minute block in the middle of the day (either prior to or after the lunch block). No masks need to be worn at outdoor recess. Kindergarten students typically have a morning recess block as well – usually 15-20 minutes.</p>

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Visitors	Meetings involving families will return, at this time, to being held via Zoom. We will monitor information from the CT Department of Public Health with hopes of having visitors later in the year.
Bus / Van Transportation	Per current guidance, anyone riding a school bus or van will wear a mask. The 2021 – 2022 school year will have bus seating return to our Pre-COVID approach of our younger children sitting closer to the front of the bus.
Drop Off / Pick Up	Drop-off and Pick-Up will be in the Community Room parking lot. Staff will be outside on the sidewalk to greet the children / assist them with getting out of the car. We continue to appreciate patience as we load / unload vehicles. Our little ones move quickly, and their safety is our total focus. With larger numbers of families dropping off / picking up, the line can get long. Please know that we work hard to keep the line moving.