

# **Meridian Elementary School District COVID Safety Protocols 2022-23**

## **Cleaning and Disinfection:**

- Each classroom will be cleaned and disinfected daily.
- The office and staff areas will be cleaned and disinfected daily. Each bathroom will be cleaned and disinfected daily.
- If the facility has had a sick person with COVID-19 within the last 24 hours, we will clean AND disinfect ALL spaces occupied by that person during that time.

## **Health Hygiene Practices:**

- Students will wash their hands or use hand sanitizer upon entering the classroom, before and after eating, and before and after recess or using the bathrooms. All classrooms and buildings have hand sanitizer available in multiple places.
- Healthy Hygiene Practices will be taught to all students. The routine of washing hands for 20 seconds, before eating and after using the bathroom, using a tissue, not touching your face, etc. will be reinforced daily at all grade levels.

## **Face Coverings:**

- Face coverings policies will coincide with the mask mandates put in place by Sutter County. Masks will be provided to any student or staff who require them. No student or staff will be discriminated against in any way if they choose to wear a mask, even when mandates aren't in place. .

## **Recommendations for staying home when sick and getting tested:**

- Students and staff should self monitor for illness and stay home when sick. If a student or staff develops symptoms while at school they will immediately be sent home, or quarantined until a parent can pick them up. The school will provide a covid test to the student with the permission of a parent. All staff members have access to covid tests at the school site and are encouraged to test if they have a known exposure, or are exhibiting symptoms.
- Students and staff with symptoms of Covid-19 should not return for in-person instruction until they have met CDPH criteria to return to school for those with symptoms:
  - At least 24 hours have passed since the resolution of a fever without fever reducing medication
  - Other symptoms have improved and
  - They have a negative COVID test, or a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition, or a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative diagnoses

- Or at least 10 days have passed since the symptom onset.
- Students will be offered independent study while quarantined and will not be penalized for being absent if they complete the independent study packet.

**Testing:**

- It is recommended that Meridian Elementary School District students or staff who have symptoms of COVID-19, or current pandemic, or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 test for Covid 19. The school will provide antigen tests at no cost. If they choose not to be tested they must quarantine for ten days of the onset of symptoms, or the date of last contact.
- The individual in question will be sent home immediately if not already quarantined.
- The individual in question will be sent home immediately if not already quarantined. Individuals will be directed to undergo testing.
- All staff members who do not show proof of vaccination must undergo a weekly negative COVID test to continue to work.

**Case Reporting, Contact Tracing, and Investigation**

- Schools are required to report COVID-19 cases to the local public health department.
- Mrs. McPeters is the COVID-19 Liaison to assist the health department with contact tracing and investigation.
- Meridian Elementary will follow the most current requirements from the county regarding contact tracing and reporting.

**Quarantine:**

- Fully vaccinated close contacts should be referred for COVID-19 testing. If asymptomatic, fully vaccinated close contacts do not need to quarantine at home following an exposure (they can continue to attend school in-person and participate in other activities). In addition to correctly wearing masks in school, they should wear a mask in other indoor public settings for 10 days or until they receive a negative test result.
- Exposed students, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status or prior infection, should get tested for COVID-19 with at least one diagnostic test obtained within 3-5 days after last exposure.
  - In the event of wide-scale and/or repeated exposures, broader (e.g., grade-wide or campus-wide) once weekly testing for COVID-19 may be considered until such time that exposure events become less frequent.

- Any FDA-approved antigen diagnostic test, PCR diagnostic test, or pooled PCR test is acceptable.
- Exposed students who participate in testing may continue to take part in all aspects of k-12 schooling, including sports and extracurricular activities, unless they develop symptoms or test positive for Covid -19.

#### **Staff Training and Family Education:**

- Regular staff training will continue throughout the pandemic and as direction from the CDC and CDPH continue to change.
- Our school newsletter and website will share information on how to keep students safe and healthy.

#### **Testing of Students and Staff:**

##### **Students with Special Needs**

- All personnel necessary for students with disabilities will be allowed on campus in order to provide necessary services for students with IEPs, but will provide proof of vaccination or a weekly negative COVID test.
- Students with special needs who are in quarantine will continue to be provided services through ZOOM or Google Classroom.
- In the event that students do not meet their required service minutes, they will be made up when the student returns to school.

##### **Communication Plan:**

- Meridian Elementary School will maintain communication systems that allow staff and families to self-report COVID-19 symptoms and receive immediate notifications of exposures and closures.
- Communication will maintain confidentiality as required by FERPA and state law related to privacy of educational records and other privacy laws.
- Local Health Departments will notify the school administration if a case and contact investigation reveal exposure at the school site.
- The administration and teachers will communicate clearly, consistently, and often with stakeholder groups (students, parents/guardians, staff and community) with the most up to date information available.
- The administration and teachers will communicate with families/staff/community through a variety of platforms (i.e. email, website posts, social media, newsletter, text messages, phone calls).