FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CURRENT FACE MASK POLICY: OPTIONAL

Effective December 1, 2021, masks are now optional for students and staff in all settings at Middlebury Community Schools. Due to Governor Holcomb’s current Executive Order, schools are required (by Indiana Code) to implement specific control measures defined by the Indiana Department of Health. These control measures include contact tracing, isolation of positive cases, and quarantining of close contacts as defined by the IDOH. This FAQ was developed based on these legal requirements.

Q. What happens if my child tests positive for COVID-19?
A. Students who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to isolate for 10 days.

Q. What happens if my child is determined to be a close contact from an exposure at school?
A. Close contacts (individuals within 6 feet of a positive case for longer than 15 minutes) must quarantine.* There are 3 options for quarantine:

1. Quarantine AT HOME for 14 days (no test needed).
2. Quarantine AT HOME for 10 days (no test needed). If the student has not developed symptoms, they may return on the 11th day with enhanced precautions through day 14.
3. Quarantine AT HOME for 7 days. If the student has not developed symptoms, they may return on day 8, with enhanced precautions, with proof of a negative PCR test (at-home and rapid test results are NOT accepted) result on day 5-7.

**ENHANCED PRECAUTIONS**

| Wear a mask over nose and mouth at all times around others, including recess. |
| Maintain distance of at least 3 feet from others during the school day. |
| Lunch to be eaten separately from others since masks will be off. Remain 6 feet from others during lunch, no exceptions. |

*Individual does NOT need to quarantine if they are fully vaccinated OR if they have been ill with COVID-19 within the previous 90 days, and does not have any symptoms throughout the 14 days after exposure. Proof of vaccination or positive COVID-19 test will need to be presented (antibody tests are not accepted). If symptoms develop in vaccinated individuals during the 14-day quarantine period, they need to stay home and proof of a negative PCR test is required for return.

Q. Can my child participate in athletics or extra-curricular activities as a close contact?
A. The student may participate if they return early with enhanced precautions, as long as they follow the guidelines below:
- Wear mask at all times while not actively performing or actively playing during the sporting activity.
- Distance as much as possible when unmasked.
- Use hand sanitizer before and after playing/touching equipment.
- Stay home if symptoms appear or if feeling sick, and get tested.
- DO NOT participate if experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.
Q. If my child chooses to wear a mask while at school, will they still be subject to quarantine?
A. Yes. The IDOH guidelines state that in a school where face coverings are optional, anyone who is identified as a close contact must quarantine, regardless of whether they were wearing a mask or not. Additionally, because the district is now mask optional, staff will not be monitoring effective/consistent mask wearing by students. So there is no way to confirm who was wearing a mask at the time of an exposure.

Q. What if someone in our home (but not the student) has tested positive for COVID?
A. If someone who lives in the family home has tested positive for COVID, please contact the school nurse to determine the student’s return date. Early return with enhanced precautions is NOT an option for students when COVID is present in the home.

PLEASE NOTE: We are not permitted to allow mask exemptions for students returning from quarantine with enhanced precautions.