



October 14, 2020

Dear Parents,

We're about six weeks into our school year and it's time to re-evaluate and add to our Wellness Plan. Much is going well:

- Students are wearing masks all of the time (even outside).
- Parents have been extremely helpful in keeping children home when needed and honoring our policies. Thank you.

The teachers agree that the hardest part is keeping kids six feet apart all of the time. That was the reason for changing the mask wearing to have masks worn outside as well.

We have had some minor illnesses (sniffles, sore throat, one case of strep throat), so we want to keep up our vigilance to minimize spread of all diseases.

In this document you will find:

- Our wellness policy;
- What to do if your child is sick;
- What to do if anyone in your family is a close contact to someone with COVID;
- What the school will do if there is a case of COVID;
- And finally, what you can do at home to minimize risk and diseases coming into the school.

## **WELLNESS POLICY**

Please call the school office, not only the teacher, if your child is sick and will not be attending. In addition, for the health of all children and staff, please keep your child at home if he/she has any of these symptoms:

1. Fever (must stay home 48 hours with no fever and no fever-reducing medicine) and/ or chills
2. Rash (if not yet treated by a doctor)
3. Vomiting (must stay home 24 hours after vomiting)

4. Cough
5. Diarrhea (must stay home 24 hours after diarrhea)
6. Sore throat or difficulty swallowing
7. Mild to severe congestion
8. Other communicable diseases
9. Is unable to go out for recess
10. Nausea, abdominal pain
11. Shortness of breath
12. Extreme tiredness or muscles aches that are unusual
13. Decrease or loss of smell or taste
14. Headache that is unusual or long lasting

This plan is the same for students, staff and co-op aides:

- If a member of the school community is sick, he/she will stay at home until all symptoms are resolved per the wellness plan above.
- Anyone with any of the symptoms above must contact his/her health care provider to determine if a COVID test is needed.
- To return to school, the person must have a doctor's note saying it is safe to return and/or a negative COVID test.

If a child becomes sick at school, we will isolate the child in the designated area for the parent to pick up. An adult, dressed in protective gear, will stay with the child. Then follow the steps above.

#### **What if a family member is sick?**

Note that if a family member is sick or pending a COVID test the child must stay home from school as well.

- This means if a sibling is sick or pending a COVID test the other sibling stays home.
- If a parent is sick or pending a COVID test the children stay home.
- When symptoms in the infected person are resolved that person may return to school with a doctor's note and/or a negative COVID test. The household members may then return to school.

### **What if someone is a “close contact” to someone who contracted COVID?**

If a family member is a close contact to someone who contracted COVID, all household members are excluded from school for 14 days after the last date of close contact with the positive case.

- A close contact is someone who was within six feet of the infected person for 15 minutes or more, with or without a mask.

### **Notification**

We will notify parents and staff if a child/ adult has a confirmed infectious disease (influenza, strep, pink eye, COVID, etc.) and we will notify the health department. We are required to report infectious diseases to the health department.

### **What if someone tests positive for COVID?**

If a student, staff member, or aiding parent tests positive for COVID, all school members will be notified. The school will pivot to remote learning for 14 days. Per guidelines, we will complete a deep cleaning of the building after 24 hours. We will report the case to the Wayne County Health Department and provide close contacts of the person infected as required. Remote learning will start in 48 hours.

If a family member, but not someone who comes into the school, tests positive for COVID, we will not close the school. All household members of that person will be excluded for 14 days.

### **When can someone come back to school after having COVID?**

The student/ staff/ aide is excluded from school until:

- 10 days since symptoms first appeared; AND
- At least 48 hours with no fever (>100.0) without use of fever-reducing medicine; AND
- Symptoms have improved.

### **HOW TO KEEP MY CHILD SAFE AT HOME**

There are two ways illness, including COVID, can spread to our school community:

- Illness that is spread within the school, and
- Illness that is spread between students outside of the school.
- We'll continue to be vigilant at school to keep your children safe. You can help by following some guidelines at home.

These are guidelines only. You always need to make the best decisions for your family.

Our goal is to keep our school community safe. This requires all of us to review the measures we use within our families and in our homes. COVID-19 transmits more readily indoors, especially when masks are not worn. As the weather changes, visiting with friends and family may require changes to help keep everyone safe. Some ideas to keep in mind:

- Continue outdoor activities as much as the weather permits.
- Utilize online tools for visiting and gaming between friends.
- Social distancing, masking and hand washing reduce transmission. These principles should be used when interacting with individuals not in your immediate family.
- Consider finding alternate ways to celebrate the holidays that avoid entertaining in homes.
- Is your child playing winter indoor sports? Ask the specifics about mask wearing and screening protocols.
- Now is the time to get flu shots for you and your children.
- Attached is a helpful document about celebrating Halloween safely.



## SUMMARY

It is inevitable. We will have case(s) of COVID even with our diligent efforts. When that happens, the school will pivot to remote learning for 14 days and learning will continue. The teachers created excellent remote learning options last spring and they will enhance learning even more this fall.

This is going to happen sooner than we might think. Expect rolling closures, too, throughout the year.

- Now is a good time to check your Wi-Fi and bandwidth. Is it suitable for multiple users?

- Now is the time to ask Carrie at the front desk if you need an iPad or Chromebook to use at home (gr. 1-8) during remote learning.

We are in this together. We can't bring our risk to zero, but by working together we can minimize risk.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elaine Kennedy*

and the New Morning School Coronavirus Task Force