

Manson School District will reopen all schools for full-time in-person learning starting September 2, 2021.

On July 28, Governor Jay Inslee announced that due to an increase in COVID transmission rates and spread of the new, more contagious Delta variant in our state, that all K-12 schools are mandated by law to continue mask-wearing among students and adults inside schools regardless of vaccination status. This announcement aligns with the recent [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention \(CDC\)](#) updated recommendations for K-12 and extends the Washington State [Department of Health's \(DOH\) current guidance for reopening K-12 schools this fall](#). DOH has updated its guidance to reflect the new mandate (Aug.10, 2021).

While children who get COVID-19 typically have milder symptoms than adults, children do get COVID-19 and can transmit it. Severe disease is rare, but some children require hospitalization. Further, the Delta variant, which spreads more than twice as easily from one person to another compared to earlier strains, has surged to become the predominant variant in Washington. Given this, the masking decision is not a choice being left to local school boards or superintendents. Under the Governor's proclamation schools must continue to follow this mandate as well as follow all health and safety guidance provided by the DOH, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and Labor and Industries (L&I). State Superintendent Chris Reykdal issued a directive to all school district superintendents and school boards [outlining mandated compliance for K-12 schools](#). Washington state continues to take a public health approach to COVID and will reevaluate the mandate if rates decline.

The Governor expressed a sense of urgency for Washingtonians to get vaccinated to slow the spread of the disease and keep schools open. Questions about vaccination safety should be directed to your health care professional. Those who have not been vaccinated and wish to do so can [make an appointment](#) using the [Vaccination WA website](#).

We look forward to welcoming your student(s) back to our schools for full-day, in-person instruction on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Below you will find our 2021-2022 Health and Safety Protocols and a list of frequently asked questions. Additional information on returning to school will be shared by your students' school and teachers.

## Manson School District

### 2021-22 Health and Safety Protocols

**This information is subject to change and will be updated as requirements change.**

Based on current (August 13, 2021) [K-12 guidance from the Department of Health \(DOH\)](#) and the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) the following protocols are **NO LONGER** required/necessary:

- Daily health attestation (verbal or electronic)
- Temperature checks prior to entry into a school building
- Cohorting (grouping) of students

### Required COVID Health and Safety Guidelines Students and Staff

#### Masking/PPE

- All school personnel, volunteers, visitors and students are required to wear cloth face coverings, or an acceptable alternative (e.g. surgical mask or clear face shield with a drape) at school when **inside**, even if vaccinated.
- Staff and students are **not** required to wear masks while **outside**, regardless of vaccination status.
- All employees regardless of vaccination status are required to wear a mask at all times when inside, unless alone in their classroom/office/workspace and children are not present or expected to be present.
- Masks may be removed to eat and drink.
- Individuals with a documented medical condition, mental health condition, developmental or cognitive condition, or disability that prevents them from wearing a face-covering are eligible for a waiver through the local health district. For information on this waiver contact the district nurse or your local health care provider.

#### Employee Vaccinations

- All Manson School District staff need to be fully vaccinated or have a qualifying exemption on file by October 18, 2021. Employees will need to provide proof of vaccination to the district nurse.

#### Student Vaccinations

- School nurses will access the state database to confirm student vaccination. Students or parents/guardians do not need to bring a copy to the school office.

#### Physical Distancing

- For students, 3 feet of distance will be maintained in classrooms and other indoor facilities to the best of our ability.
- Desks and tables do not need to face the same direction.
- Staff must remain 6ft from students and other staff when possible. 6ft physical distancing should only be broken when academically necessary or for safety purposes.
- During high-risk activities, when increased exhalation or aerosolization occurs, such as PE or exercise, singing or playing instruments, and cheering or shouting. These activities should be moved outdoors or to large, well-ventilated spaces whenever possible so distance can be maximized to at least 3 feet.

## Quarantine

### **Fully Vaccinated Staff/Students**

**Exposure:** Staff/Students who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after close contact with someone who had COVID-19 unless they have [symptoms](#).

Those who have had a documented positive COVID-19 test in the past three months will be evaluated on a case by case basis in conjunction with the local health district.

#### **CDC Recommendation:**

- 3-5 days from exposure- receive a COVID test
- Wear a mask for 14 days after exposure
- Continue to follow physical distancing guidelines

### **Non-Vaccinated Staff/Students**

**Staff Exposure** – A close contact is defined as contact with a COVID positive person inside of 6ft. for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period.

- All staff close contacts follow a 14-day quarantine

**Student Exposure** – A close contact is defined as contact with a COVID positive person within 3ft. for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period

- With symptoms – home until negative test and symptoms resolved for 24 hours OR 14 days from exposure
- Without symptoms – test 3-5 days following exposure and remain in school with a negative test. Student may not participate in extra-curricular activities for 14 days.

### **14-day observation period following exposure (all staff and students)**

- Watch for symptoms until 14 days after exposure.
- If you have symptoms, immediately self-isolate and contact the school nurse Michelle Rogge at [mrogge@manson.org](mailto:mrogge@manson.org)

## **Isolation**

### **Positive for COVID-19- Regardless of Vaccination Status**

Home for 10 days from the positive test (if you don't have symptoms) and

- 24 Hours with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
- Other symptoms of COVID-19 are improving\*

*\*Loss of taste and smell may persist for weeks or months after recovery and need not delay the end of isolation*

## **Sick Students/Staff**

If you are sick, **stay home**. Any student or staff who reports COVID-19-like symptoms must be immediately isolated from others, sent home, and referred to diagnostic testing as soon as feasible.

- Staff who test positive or have a need for quarantine must contact the district nurse.
- Students who test positive or have a need to quarantine must contact their school nurse.
- School staff will work with parents and students to make learning accessible during quarantine.

## **COVID-19 Diagnostic Testing**

COVID-19 Diagnostic testing is available for staff or students who are experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms through various community locations. Rapid COVID-19 antigen testing will also be available through the district nurse. If you would like to be tested by the nurse, please call 687-9502 to speak with the school nurse.

## **Disinfecting**

In school buildings, staff will resume standard cleaning and disinfecting practices. With the emphasis on cleaning and disinfecting classrooms, bathrooms, cafeteria, and high traffic touchpoints nightly. Classrooms will have disinfectants students/staff can use throughout the day.

## **Ventilation in classrooms/schools**

Each classroom has a mechanical HVAC system that filters and introduces new air into the building that exceeds standards. In addition, each classroom is equipped with portable air purification. These air purifiers have the highest quality HEPA filters to filter airborne particles and droplets that carry the COVID 19 virus.

## **Hygiene**

Maintaining hygiene and handwashing etiquette is important to stopping the spread of germs and viruses. Handwashing with soap and water is required after going to the bathroom, playing outside, and before eating food. If handwashing is not possible, hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol should be used. Intentional lessons on healthy hygiene will be provided.

## **Transportation/Busses**

To ensure ventilation and airflow on school buses and motor pool vehicles, when feasible, windows will be cracked during operation. All passengers and drivers will wear masks. Physical distancing will be maintained to the greatest extent possible.

## **Meals/Eating**

Manson School District Nutrition Services will be serving free meals for breakfast and lunch for all students. Students will eat lunch on-site in cafeterias or outside (as weather permits). Students will be physically distanced to the greatest extent possible while eating. Shared food from home (i.e., cupcakes for the classroom) are not permitted. Breakfast will be prepackaged and sent home with students at the end of the day for breakfast the following morning. While remaining 6ft physically distanced, staff are allowed to eat together. Students are **not** required to face the same direction while eating as long as 3ft of social distancing is observed.

## **Volunteers/Parents in Building**

Buildings are to be open to the public. Volunteers who are in the building for an educational purpose are allowed. However, volunteers are required to show proof of vaccination. Volunteers are required to follow all staff safety protocols and have an updated volunteer packet on file through the district office.

## **School Events and Assemblies**

Schools will be able to host parent events (Open house, Curriculum nights, PTA events). Masks are required and physical distancing is recommended to the greatest extent possible. Indoor student assemblies and activities are allowed following the 3ft social distancing and masking protocols. Overnight field trips or activities are not permitted.

## **Staff Events, Training and Meetings**

Masks are required to be worn by staff while indoors. Physical distancing of 6ft is required between staff/students and staff/staff (unless necessary for academic or safety purposes).

## School Reopening Frequently Asked Questions

Manson School District will reopen schools for full time in-person learning on September 2<sup>nd</sup> for the 2021-22 school year. This frequently asked questions (FAQ) document details what students, their families, educators, and school staff can expect this year.

### **What will school look like this fall?**

OSPI, DOH, and the Governor's Office have mandated that all Washington students will have the opportunity to attend school in-person full-time (five days per week) in the 2021–22 school year. Manson School District will be open to serve PreK-12 students with full-time daily instruction.

### **Will there still be an online option for learning?**

No. Manson School District does not have an online learning option in place for the 21-22 school year. At this time all students need to attend their classes in person. Families that are interested in remote learning for the 21-22 school year can contact the building principals for help with options in the area. If the need for online learning grows to a level Manson School District can support, plans would be made to meet that need.

### **Will there still be health and safety measures in place?**

Yes. The following mandatory measures will still be in place in the 2021–22 school year: face coverings for all students, staff, and visitors (regardless of vaccination status); improved ventilation; regular cleaning and disinfecting; and processes for responding to and reporting cases of COVID-19. [Physical distancing](#) is still recommended by DOH at this time. See the 2021-22 Health and Safety Protocols For Students and Staff for specific details.

### **What physical distancing requirements will be in place?**

DOH recommends 3 feet of physical distancing in classrooms and 6 feet elsewhere to the greatest extent possible. Flexible language in the guidance related to physical distancing (i.e., “to the greatest extent possible” and “to the degree possible and reasonable”) ensures schools are able to provide full-time in-person instruction to every student and family who wants it. If a school needs to distance at less than 6 feet in common areas and less than 3 feet in classrooms to accommodate all students and staff, it is allowable within the [guidance](#).

### **Will masks be required?**

All school personnel, volunteers, visitors, and students must wear cloth face coverings (regardless of vaccination status), at school when indoors and when riding school transportation. Staff who are verified to be fully vaccinated may be indoors without masks when alone in their office and students are not present or expected to be present.

### **Will schools still be required to screen all students, staff, and visitors for symptoms?**

No. For the 2021–22 school year, DOH removed the requirement that schools need to screen students, staff, and visitors at entry to school buildings. However, schools will continue monitoring students, staff, and visitors for symptoms, and follow the protocols for responding to someone who shows symptoms of

COVID-19. Manson School District will continue to greet all students upon entrance and visually and verbally screen their health and well-being each day.

**Will the COVID-19 vaccine be required for students in fall 2021?**

No. The State Board of Health, which has the sole authority to set immunization requirements for students, is not requiring the COVID-19 vaccine for children in school settings.