

OFFICE OF CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER
Summary of State Board of Education Agenda Items
Consent Agenda
January 20, 2021

MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
MISSISSIPPI SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND
MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

- G. Approval of the Return to School Guides for Mississippi School of the Arts, Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, and Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science

Executive Summary

The Mississippi School of the Arts, the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind, and the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science have revised their school specific 2021-2022 *Safe Return to School COVID Reopening Plans* to include virtual learning in accordance with State Board of Education Policy, Chapter 56, Rule 56.2 - Distance Learning, Blended Learning, and Online Courses.

Recommendation: Approval

Back-up material attached

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Safe Return to School Reopening Plan 2021-2022

mississippi school of the arts

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The Mississippi School of the Arts (MSA) has created a plan aligned with Center for Disease Control for the possibility that this virus may be in our community for months to come. The operations of our campus for operation must be done with great care. This plan is built in alignment with successful strategies adopted in the 2020-2021 academic year at the MSA.

Leadership Team

Suzanne Hirsch, Executive Director
Avery Peagler, Principal
Nicholas Bridge, School Finance Officer
Patrick Brown, Technology Coordinator
Suzanne Noble, Director of Residence Life
Cindy King, Director of Food Services
Sandra Sudie Palomarez, Director of Facilities
Jennifer Jackson, Director of Advancement

School Opening

Unless directed by authorities prior to the start of school, MSA will open on a traditional model with in-person classes. If there are major adjustments required by the CDC or needed to accommodate an outbreak, a hybrid model will be adopted for two-week periods until it is safe to return to full operations. Hybrid would alternate juniors and seniors every two weeks on campus with virtual instruction the weeks they are off campus. This option can only be utilized if allowed by the protocols created for hybrid/virtual learning from the Mississippi Department of Education.

MSA will continue monitoring of CDC and educational institutions guidance will be conducted and the plan of action will be modified as needed.

Vaccination

Free vaccinations are available with most insurance plans at area pharmacies in Brookhaven and near students' homes. To find a location through the Mississippi State Department of Health, please visit: https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,420,976.html

For information regarding the effectiveness or health concerns surrounding vaccines, please visit:

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/effectiveness.html?s_cid=10464:vaccine%20effectiveness:sem.ga:p:RG:GM:gen:PTN:FY21

Covid-19 vaccines are not required for students or staff. However, MSA strongly encourages individuals to get vaccinated. Vaccinated individuals will not have to quarantine if identified as a close contact, but only self-monitor for symptoms.

All employees or students with a vaccine for COVID-19 are requested to submit a copy of the card to the nurse for the file. This information will be kept confidential, and all privacy laws will be followed in the implementation of this plan.

Daily Symptom Checks

All employees and students should self-assess for possible COVID-19 symptoms each day. A list of symptoms is below:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Daily temporal fever and basic symptom checks will be administered to all students. Anyone who has fever will be immediately isolated for further evaluation.

Employees and students who have symptoms are asked to stay home and not come back until they are free of fever (100.0° F or greater), signs of a fever, and any other symptoms for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines (e.g., cough suppressants).

Face Coverings

For the foreseeable future, masks will be required by all staff and students in public/common areas when indoors, changing classes, and classrooms where directed. They are not required for exercise or physical activity, but distancing should be utilized as much as possible. Masks are not required in student assigned dormitory rooms. Performing arts classes will be making modifications individually for what works best for their students. Teachers will communicate with their students regarding these protocols.

Audiences and guests will be required to wear masks while on campus.

Physical Distancing

Dividers will be utilized at desk areas where people must pass – security, Principal’s office, residence life, and cafeteria.

Many MSA classes are smaller in size allowing for distancing. Class sizes will be kept under 20 people as much as possible.

Residence hall assignments will limit roommates to two per room as much as possible.

The fitness center and art room in the SLC will be limited to no more than 4 people at a time. All equipment/surfaces must be wiped down by the user before departing the space.

Visitation for students will take place on the first and second floor and common areas on campus. No room to room visits except those who live on the floor.

Elevators should have no more than 4 people at one time. Masks are required.

Sanitization

MSA has sanitizer stations in every building, classroom, and floor of the residence hall in addition to the cafeteria and the nurse’s station. Restrooms are continuously stocked with soap at the sinks and paper towels. Disinfectant spray is utilized daily for all doorknobs, light fixtures, keyboards, and desks on campus.

MSA has handwashing posters throughout the campus at sinks.

Students receive training at orientation and weekly check ins about cleaning procedures in rooms/common areas; handwashing; habits regarding high touch areas. No equipment, props, costumes, supplies should be shared without first wiping them down.

Bathrooms must be cleaned with disinfectant at a minimum twice per week. Students should store their toothbrushes in separate places to avoid cross contamination. Microwaves must be wiped immediately after use.

Mental Health

The school psychologist will be available for weekly small groups (either online or in person). When these efforts are inadequate, communication will be provided to the parents for further resources available to the family.

What would cause MSA to transition to a Virtual Model of operations?

If more than 1/3 of a specified group (class, arts discipline, floor) on campus becomes ill with COVID-19 that group may be expected to quarantine with remote learning for 5 days with a negative test to return or 7 days without a test and no symptoms. If a significant number (more than 1/3 of the campus) of students or staff are diagnosed with COVID-19, the school may transition to virtual operation for a period of time as needed for the safety of students and staff and is recommended by the Mississippi State Department of Health, Center for Disease Control, or Mississippi Department of Education. MSA will follow protocols set forth in SBE Chapter 56 Rule 56.2 to assure appropriate delivery of instruction for all students.

MSA does not have a virtual learning option for the 2021-2022 school year. It will only be utilized due to quarantine or illness with medical documentation. This is not an option for students to learn at home due to transportation issues, have a job, take care of others, or travel. The rigor of courses at MSA demands student focus. Students can use the virtual set up to keep up with classes when they are absent, but unexcused absences will not allow for makeup work or tests to be done. It is imperative that families understand that virtual learning is not something we will go in/out of throughout the year. It is only reserved for documented medical issues.

What happens if someone is diagnosed with COVID-19?

If on campus, students and staff will be isolated upon identification of symptoms until tested. The student's parent/guardian, Kings Daughters Medical Center or the Lincoln County Health Department will be contacted to get tested. Upon determination of results, the patient will either be isolated or sent home until fever free for at least 24 hours.

If off campus and a positive diagnosis is received, student or staff should isolate according to MSDH and CDC guidelines. Guidance: Patient can return to campus after isolating for 5 days AND have no symptoms or if symptoms are resolving without fever for 24 hours (without use of fever reducing medicines). If patient has symptoms after 5 days, continue to stay home. Only return to campus after fever resolves for 24 hours and symptoms subside. Documentation is required of a positive result for excused absences from work or school.

Within privacy laws and confidentiality, public health notices will be issued. There may be a recommendation for testing for those in direct contact with a positive COVID-19 patient.

Upon removal of ill students or staff, disinfection protocols will be increased. Prevention protocols will continue to be followed.

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Vaccinated staff or students who are identified through contact tracing will not be required to quarantine, only monitored for symptoms for 7 days. All unvaccinated will be required to quarantine for 5 days and may return with a negative test. If not tested, quarantine for 7 days.

Content Mastery Plan – Virtual Learning (if required due to guidance or outbreak)

MSA will operate the school calendar as approved by the board. Classes will be operated according to the bell schedule as established and board approved.

Learning Management System

MSA utilizes Moodle as the online learning management system (LMS). Instructional use of this LMS has been in place for four years for all courses taught at MSA. Teachers have and continue to use discussion boards, multi-media approaches, and assessments in Moodle for formative and summative assessments. Whether in person or virtually, students will have seamless instruction and access to content. The LMS also has an application that students with internet issues can also use through the data on their cellular plan. For the partner school classes at Brookhaven High School, students are using Canvas for coursework.

Attendance and Discipline

For students attending school on campus, attendance will be documented as present or absent daily. For Virtual Instruction during times of hybrid or virtual instruction, attendance will be documented as present or absent according to one of the following:

1. The Learning Management System (LMS) will authenticate student login and participation.
2. Students logging in virtually must login to the Moodle LMS every day according to their bell schedule and click a link to mark themselves present only during the assigned class session. Teachers can access a report for verification. This assists teachers in making sure students were 'present' during class. All other attendance policies remain in effect for on-campus students.

Disciplinary rules are written in the Student Handbook and reviewed with all students at orientation through a virtual and in person workshop. A workshop is also offered for all students regarding appropriate behavior and expectations for any virtual classes or meetings.

Teacher Preparation

All teachers are fluent on video conferencing software used by the school and have received training through free resources at Mississippi community colleges and one-to-one training with the MSA technology coordinator. Teachers have received recent access to training for creating digital content and lessons.

Student Resources, Growth, and Access

MSA assists students with necessary technology hardware and software for learners. There are 1:1 computers for all students and staff. Increased connectivity on the campus is available for any local students and staff. A survey of technology access and internet connectivity is

administered to guarantee all students have access to the applications and software required for participation in classes.

Textbooks from approved textbook list from MDE are used for all courses as appropriate. These are checked out for use with the Moodle and Zoom methods of delivery. E-books are used for dual credit courses according to the community college requirements. National standards and state standards are utilized for all arts instruction. Additional supplemental materials are used to augment the learning needs including videos, recordings, and books appropriate to the learning. ACT preparation is also provided to students throughout the year.

Administrators use Renaissance Learning, ACT, and digital assessments for measuring comprehensive growth. The use of discussion boards and video conferencing technology provides interactive engagement. All students must participate in a plagiarism lesson and pass an assessment at 100%. Students are reminded of academic integrity while enrolled at MSA. MSA utilizes Turnitin integration with Moodle.

Students with Individual Education Plans (IEP) or 504 Accommodation Plans are reviewed each semester among teachers who serve them. All accommodations are made for the students whether virtual or in person. The lesson plans and assignments utilized are monitored weekly by the principal to insure appropriate instructional expectations are met.

Families of students with disabilities receive email communication or phone calls as needed from teachers and the administration.

The following tools are used by MSA teachers to gauge instructional understanding and content mastery:

- Pre and Post-tests
- Homework
- Bell work
- Quizzes
- Written and Listening Tests
- Writing Assignments
- Graphic Organizers
- Critiques
- Rubrics
- Observation
- Final Productions/Products
- Direct Observation
- Performances and Showcases
- Writing Feedback
- Lab
- Conferences
- Video Feedback
- Portfolios
- Presentations
- Packets

MSA will continue to use online tools to collect information and respond by giving teachers a visual representation of success or failure of a student through the delivery channels of instruction. Teachers do daily check-ins are conducted through Moodle using discussion boards, uploaded assignments, and data driven feedback through turnitin.com for written assignments. Zoom sessions for individual feedback are utilized in performing arts. After school tutorials are available for students needing further assistance with their day's lecture.

Assessments are given through Moodle LMS. Peer editing can be done through discussion forums. Video uploads and zoom meetings for artistic progress are conducted through Moodle. Discussion boards are utilized for formative understanding. Teachers are aware of the objectives required for course completion. The information will be provided through multiple methods of instruction. Formative assessment is an ongoing process at MSA in every class with weekly check-ins for the students who are struggling by the administration. Summative assessments will be administered in courses as done in previous years through portfolio, performance, presentation, and exam.

When students must learn virtually, the classes are conducted in the same manner as they are in person. All state tests will be administered on campus in person.

Criteria for Individual Student Virtual Learning

Students who are required to do at home virtual learning while enrolled in the Mississippi School of the Arts (MSA) must adhere to the following criteria:

- 1) Virtual learning is only an option when a student is at home for quarantine, mandatory isolation, or long-term illness.
- 2) Virtual learning in this case allows for flexibility in completion of the work at times convenient to the family/student. However, all zoom meetings with teachers will occur during the planned on-campus block according to the students' schedules. Students must be available for these meetings during those blocks to allow for as much interaction as possible. Non-participation in scheduled zoom sessions will be marked absent for that day. Students must login at the start of each class, each day.
- 3) Virtual learning is not an option for students to learn at home because they don't want to return to school, lack of transportation, have a job, take care of others, or travel. The rigor of courses at MSA demands student focus. It is expected that students will honor the use of virtual learning and continue to grow as artists and students. Important information is missing in social environment and the special nature of MSA. Engaging in classes with teachers will reduce the negative impact of an absence from the environment.
- 4) Attendance must be taken for students. MSA classes must login within the first ten minutes of class to submit their attendance. BHS classes should follow instruction from their teachers. Further monitoring is done through participation in online learning, submission of work deadlines, login to the online portals for the classes, and other methods as outlined by each teacher in their syllabus and lesson plans. Students will be counted absent if they do not meet their daily assignments.
- 5) The MSA classes will be offered through the learning management system, Moodle. Zoom will be the online method for classes. There are apps for smart phones to use both methods in case of wi-fi/internet issues at home.

- 6) The BHS classes will be offered through the learning management system, Canvas. Zoom will be the online method for meetings. These courses will also have a packet of information distributed for at home learning in addition to these methods for those with internet connectivity issues.
- 7) Students with a 504 or IEP will receive accommodations according to their individual plans through all methods of learning.
- 8) Students without a computer will be allowed to check out a computer upon signing a contract for use.
- 9) Students without internet access will need to receive hard copy packets of the materials if they do not have access to a printer. Phone calls will be utilized if no other means of class meetings are possible.
- 10) Students need to engage with their teachers daily for all classes. Each student receives a school email address. This is the primary method of communication. If students do not regularly access email due to internet access, they will need to establish a regular schedule for contact with teachers.
- 11) Students should get a calendar or utilize the calendar on their phones to note their deadlines. Families should work on a daily check-in with their students regarding their progress and issues.
- 12) Communication is key and should be utilized!!!

Additional ideas for use of virtual learning for students with smart phones:

- 1) Students should set up their email accounts on their smart phone for rapid access.
- 2) iPhone notes app has a built-in scanner. Students can open the note, select the camera to scan their assignments and email them to their teachers.
- 3) Download the Moodle app and the Zoom app for constant communication.

Who to Contact with needs:

Teacher email addresses are in their syllabus and should be the first line of defense regarding content questions. It is also located on our website www.msabrookhaven.org

For issues logging in to Moodle, email our Technology Coordinator – Patrick.Brown@msabrookhaven.org

BHS Canvas login information has been provided to the students. Issues with canvas need to be communicated with avery.peagler@msabrookhaven.org

For issues with attendance or Active Parent (MSA class portal for grades, attendance, and discipline), contact tommie.hart@msabrookhaven.org

BHS classes can also be seen on their Active Parent site through brookhavenschools.org, which will need a login information that can be received from the BHS Counselor. Ms. Tommie Hart can assist with getting this.

For issues with teacher communication, contact our Principal avery.peagler@msabrookhaven.org

For scheduling issues, communicate with the MSA Counselor harlie.blauw@msabrookhaven.org.

If your student is struggling emotionally and does not have access to a counselor/therapist, contact our Counselor harlie.blauw@msabrookhaven.org who can set a zoom session with your student

MSA Bell Schedule

MSA Regular Class Schedule (subject to change)

8:00-9:34 a.m.	Block 1
9:34-9:55 a.m.	Tutorial Sessions or Morning Break
9:55-11:29 a.m.	Block 2
11:29-12:14 p.m.	Lunch
12:14-1:48 p.m.	Block 3
1:52 -3:26 p.m.	Block 4
3:30-5:00 p.m.	Tutorial/Online/Production Block

**Students who are absent for reasons other than those listed above can use virtual learning to keep up with their work. However, without proper documentation for the absence as outlined in the handbook, the student will be unexcused absent if not on campus. Student will be counted absent except when they follow guidelines above and are required to be at home for quarantine/isolation.

Updates to this plan will be made as needed. All new communications and plan modifications will be updated on the MSA website, social media accounts, by mail, handouts, email, and instant message.

Appendix A

Virtual Learning Commitment

Criteria Checklist: Please answer each statement/question by circling YES or NO

1. I have reliable high speed internet service at home (a working hotspot device qualifies) YES or NO
2. My child has either a district issued Chromebook or a personal computer device equipped with camera and video streaming capability. YES or NO
3. My child will have a quiet and private designated space at home free of disruptions from household noises and free from disruptions from other people in the home. YES or NO
4. I understand and agree that my child MUST maintain good attendance. Three (3) or more unexcused absences in a grading period (approx. 45 days) may result in attendance violation. YES or NO
5. I understand and agree that my child will be logged in for each class, on-time, every day. Three (3) or more late logins OR three (3) or more occurrences of the student not completing the full school day in a grading period (approx. 45 days) may result in attendance violation. YES or NO
6. I understand and agree that my child will be held to the same code of student conduct requirements as in-person students. YES or NO
7. I understand and agree that my child MUST attend school in-person on designated assessment days. Students will be scheduled in a manner that will allow for social distancing on assessment days. YES or NO
8. Does your child have an IEP or 504 Plan? YES or NO

I understand this document is for use only if the school is required to operate virtually or if my child is required to isolate/quarantine at home or under the care of a doctor preventing them from attending in person classes.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind

Safe Start to School Guide **4.0**



“Where Endless Opportunities Abound!”

Revised January 21, 2022
(updates in blue)

A MESSAGE FROM OUR SUPERINTENDENT – January 21, 2022

Dear Families,

What a semester it has been despite COVID-19! We have worked hard to make school as “normal” as possible for students, while continuing to fight the Delta and Omicron variants of the virus. Academic data is trending in the right direction, students are engaged in learning each day, teachers and staff are working together to solve problems and improve instruction and learning, the campus looks better than it has in a long time, and our new website is set to launch in just a few weeks. We have been able to safely play every sport including football, goalball, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, and we are looking forward to a regular season of track and field.

This is our first year as a school district with two very distinct schools, so you may see our new “M” logo around campus and in emails like the one on the front page of this plan. Our new motto, Where Endless Opportunities Abound, strikes at the heart of our mission to provide the best specialized instruction to your child to ensure great success at Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (MSDB).

In addition to indoor masking, social distancing, frequent hand sanitization, and daily fumigations after school, we have also added weekly on-campus Covid testing for those who are interested and have placed an ActivePure Air Purification System in every classroom. Not only will the purifiers kill Covid-19 in the air and on surfaces, but it also combats our common foes such as cold, flu, strep, and staph.

I would like to encourage you to talk to your doctors about vaccination and/or boosters. The Delta and Omicron variants have been highly contagious for children, and experts believe the risk for super-spreader events in schools can be high. Free vaccinations are available and can be found at:

https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,420,976.html For more information regarding the effectiveness or health concerns surrounding vaccines, please visit: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/effectiveness.html?s_cid=10464:vaccine%20effectiveness:sem.ga:p:RG:GM:gen:PTN:FY21

I do ask that you submit a copy of your child’s vaccination/booster card (if applicable) to help us with contact tracing. The Omicron variant of the virus is causing symptoms other than fever first, and then fever may follow afterward. If your child is sick, with or without fever, please keep them home and have them tested as soon as possible.

Finally, we will continue with in-person learning, as we believe students learn best when they are in the physical presence of their teacher and classmates. Our number one priority will always be the health and safety of students and staff. If modifications to our Safe Start to School Guide are needed, we will notify you via email, social media, and by all other possible means of communication. I am optimistic we will continue to mitigate this virus successfully, and we will continue to ensure your child receives the best educational experience possible. Thank you for trusting us and partnering with us in this endeavor!

Sincerely,



Jeremy Stinson, Ph.D.
MSDB Superintendent

jeremy.stinson@msdbk12.org (601) 984-8203

2021-2022 School Calendar

Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind

July 2021						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 2021						
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29	30	31				

September 2021						
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October 2021						
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31						

November 2021						
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December 2021						
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Aug 3-6	Professional Development Days
Aug 9	First Day of School for Students
Sep 6	Labor Day
Sep 8	Progress Reports
Oct 11-12	Fall Break
Oct 15	Report Cards
Nov 10	Progress Reports
Nov 22-26	Thanksgiving Vacation
Dec 20-Dec 31	Winter Break
Jan 3	Professional Development Day
Jan 7	Report Cards
Jan 17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Feb 2	Progress Reports
Feb 21	Presidents' Day
Mar 11	Report Cards
Mar 14-18	Spring Break
April 15-18	Easter Break
April 20	Progress Reports
May 9	Professional Development Day
May 20	Graduation
May 25	Report Cards
May 26	Last Day of School
May 30	Memorial Day

Staff Schedule	
July 27	Head Nurse and Counselors report
Aug 3	9 month staff report
May 27	last day for 9 month staff
June 3	Head Nurse and Counselors last day

January 2022						
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30	31					

February 2022						
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27	28					

March 2022						
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April 2022						
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May 2022						
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June 2022						
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26	27	28	29	30		

Category of Events

Category of Events

Category of Events

- School Closed
- Professional Development (no school for students)
- Progress Reports/Report Cards
- Classes resume
- First and Last days of school

GENERAL INFORMATION

Our district is the Mississippi Schools for the Deaf and the Blind (MSDB) with two distinct schools. The Mississippi School for the Deaf serves children from age 3-21 who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deafblind. The Mississippi School for the Blind serves children from age 3-21 who are blind, visually impaired, or deafblind. Our agency also includes statewide services which encompass our birth to three SKI*HI program and other services that are in development, the Mississippi Assistance Center (MAC) which provides appropriate sensory-specific assessments and recommendations to families and districts and facilitates the admissions process to both schools, and the Mississippi Instructional Resource Center (MIRC) which provides access to textbooks and instructional materials to districts serving students with visual impairments.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMING

In-Person Learning

All MSDB students will continue with in-person learning. Due to the increasing COVID-19 numbers, we ask that parents and other visitors not come to campus, except for athletic events and urgent matters pre-approved by the principal or superintendent.

Remember, if your student requires medications during the school day and rides a bus, be sure to give it to the bus chaperone and they will bring it to the nurse. Students will attend classes on campus Monday-Friday with departure at 1:40 p.m. on Fridays. There are a few exceptions to accommodate for holidays. Please refer to the 2021-2022 school calendar on page three (3) of this plan.

Virtual Option Due to Exposure or Outbreaks

Though our goal is to remain on campus the entire year, there may be times when an individual student, small group, or class requires a quarantine. You will receive a notification from the school explaining that your child needs to be quarantined due to exposure to a positive COVID-19 case. There may also be times when our adult supervision coverage is inadequate to meet student needs. Our goal will always be to avoid temporary closure or quarantine at all costs.

If the virtual option is needed, students will receive mostly live, virtual instruction from a certified teacher, and a classroom assistant may help virtual students through tutoring sessions. There also may be some independent work required when the teacher is not live on the screen. All virtual instruction and learning must total at least 330 minutes through the Learning Management System (LMS) called Canvas, which is the equivalent of a full day of in-person learning.

Before a student is allowed to participate in virtual learning due to an exposure or outbreak, he or she must meet the following eligibility criteria, and the student/parent must agree to abide by the policies below:

- **Parents and students must sign and return the agreement in Appendix A of this plan that acknowledges receipt and acceptance of, and commitment to, the district policy pertaining to virtual learning.**
- **Students MUST have reliable internet connectivity at home, or parents should request a hotspot. If the hotspot will not work, students will be required to**

complete learning packets, which include the same assignments that would be given in virtual instruction.

- **Students must use their school-issued device for virtual learning.**
- **Students MUST have a designated space for virtual learning that is quiet, private, and free from distractions of other household members and household noises.**
- **The student MUST maintain good attendance and be logged in on time for each class for a total of 330 minutes each day.**
- **Virtual students will be held to the same code of student conduct requirements as in-person students.**
- **All students MUST attend school in-person on designated assessment days (interims, benchmarks, nine-weeks exams, end-of-course exams, and state assessments).**
- **All students have assurance of equal access/nondiscrimination while participating in virtual learning.**
- **All students have the assurance of the delivery of Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) for students with disabilities including a:**
 - a. **process for conducting meetings pertaining to the evaluation and eligibility of students with disabilities.**
 - b. **process for monitoring and documenting student progress and services delivered to students with disabilities; and**
 - c. **process for ongoing communication with families, teachers, and related service providers.**
- **All students will have assurance of compliance with Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) while participating in virtual learning.**

Technology

We achieved our goal last year of providing one-to-one, age-appropriate devices to use in the classroom and at home as needed. Internet hotspots will also be available to families who need them if the hotspot will work as an option for Internet access from home. Parents and students will be required to sign the MSDB Acceptable Use Policy before being issued any device. Students and parents will continue to receive training as needed on proper device usage and the online Learning Management System (LMS) called Canvas. Families who still have no Wi-Fi access after all attempts to remedy the issue will be provided learning packets, which include the same assignments that would be given in virtual instruction.

Attendance

Attendance will be documented as present or absent, whether a student is in-person or virtual. If virtual, the student must sign into Canvas and be present to be counted. If students use learning packets due to lack of wi-fi or have temporary wi-fi issues, each school will make one-on-one contact with a student for the day to authenticate their presence and provide daily evidence of engagement. Students must attend class for a minimum of 330 minutes of instruction per day. After five (5) unexcused absences, an attendance officer will be notified.

OPERATIONS

Transportation

Day Students:

Please check with your local district for their cleaning and sanitizing bus protocols. Please remember

if your child is not riding the bus due to illness, emergency, or times of campus closure, it is your responsibility to contact your district's transportation department and let them know.

Residential Students:

- MSDB buses will be sanitized before and after each transportation trip.
- All drivers and passengers will be required to always wear masks.
- Whenever possible, windows may be lowered to encourage air flow.
- Whenever possible, social distancing requirements will be followed.

Food Services

Meals will be provided for students and staff in "to-go" boxes if necessary for strict social distancing. Four separate areas on our campus are available to support efforts to social distance during lunch: the cafeteria, student center, bistro, and recreational building. Pick-up times will be staggered to allow for better social distancing if necessary.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Masks

- Masks must always be worn indoors. Even vaccinated individuals can carry and/or contract the Delta variant of the virus.
- Masks are not required outside if social distancing.

Temperature Checks

Day Students:

1. All students' temperatures will be checked as they exit the bus each morning. Any student with a fever of 100.4 or higher will be taken to the Health Clinic for follow-up.
2. Some districts are performing temperature checks before students board the bus. Please check with your local district to see what your district is doing.

Residential Students:

MSDB chaperone staff will check each residential student's temperature before boarding the bus on Sundays. Any child who has 100.4 or higher will return home with parents.

All Students:

All students' temperatures will be taken during lunch. Any student who has 100.4 or higher or any other symptoms will be taken or sent to the Health Clinic for follow-up.

Staff:

Staff will be self-monitoring their health symptoms and not reporting to work if sick and/or fever. They will also self-check temperature upon entering the building each day.

Sanitation & Safety Protocols:

1. Hand sanitizer stations are in the office, cafeteria, dorms, gymnasiums, auditoriums, health center, and all classrooms.
2. Restrooms are continuously stocked with soap, and disinfectant spray is being utilized daily for all doorknobs, light fixtures, keyboards, and desks.
3. Students and staff should use hand sanitizer when entering and leaving any building. Handwashing with soap for 20 seconds or longer is required before leaving the restroom.
4. Safety procedures related to visitors will be enhanced by limiting which, if any, exterior doors are unlocked.
5. Desks and materials will be wiped down with disinfectants after any in-class transition or sharing of materials.
6. Each student will have a 1:1 device for use on campus to avoid cross-contamination.
7. Classroom doors will be open for increased air flow and ventilation. Safety procedures related to visitors will be enhanced by limiting which, if any, exterior doors are unlocked.
8. Every attempt will be made to have a substitute teacher in the classroom if a teacher becomes ill. Combining classes will be a last resort, and the combined class will follow social distancing guidelines. This may mean moving the classes to a larger space in the building.
9. Restrooms are cleaned and sanitized thoroughly each night by the custodial staff.
10. Restroom handles, doorknobs, and faucets in Buildings A, B, and C will be sanitized at mid-day each day by custodial staff.
11. The DHH Elementary Annex will sanitize their own bathrooms during the day as needed.
12. Signs in Buildings A, B, and C will clearly indicate if bathrooms are for staff or for students.
13. Residence hall students will have their own bedrooms and bathrooms if possible.
14. Residence hall bedrooms and bathrooms will be cleaned each day by the student according to current practice.
15. Masks will be worn in public areas in the residence halls. When students are alone in their bedrooms, doors must be open, and masks are optional.
16. Residence hall doorknobs and light switches will be wiped down and sanitized by residential staff before departing for the day.
17. Students and staff will use hand sanitizer upon entering and leaving the residence halls.
18. Residence halls will be cleaned thoroughly on Fridays after students leave.

If you test **POSITIVE** for COVID-19 (**Regardless of Vaccination Status**):

1. If staff member/student tests positive for COVID-19, then he or she must stay at home in isolation for **5 days including the day of the positive test. Strict mask usage and social distancing is always required, but especially the 5 days after returning to school.** The staff member/student must have improved symptoms after the **5-day** isolation period and be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications to be able to return to school and must bring a copy of the initial positive test result for the principal or supervisor to keep on file. **The CDC recently changed the isolation period to five (5) days based on science demonstrating that most SARS-CoV-2 transmission occurs early in the course of illness, generally in the 1-2 days prior to onset of symptoms and the 2-3 days after.**
2. If an individual has no symptoms but tests positive with a rapid test and tests negative within 48 hours with the molecular-based test, the individual may return to school and monitor symptoms.

3. If a student is sick on campus with COVID-19 symptoms (such as fever of **100.4** or higher, cough, or shortness of breath), he or she must report to the Health Clinic for isolation and evaluation. Parents will be notified to pick up the student and take them for a COVID-19 test immediately. Symptomatic staff members must go off campus for testing immediately as well. Free COVID testing sites and appointment scheduling can be found at covidschedule.umc.edu or by calling (601) 496-7200. If the initial test is negative, documentation must be provided to the principal or supervisor for the staff member/student to return to school.

If you are EXPOSED to someone who tests POSITIVE for Covid-19:

1. Administration will begin contact tracing to determine who may have come into close contact with the positive individual (less than 6 feet, at least 15 minutes combined).
2. Staff/students who have no symptoms and have been in close contact with someone testing positive for COVID-19, have two (2) options based on **booster** status:
 - a. If a person is **boosted** and has no symptoms, he or she can remain at school, monitor symptoms, and must always adhere to strict mask and social distancing requirements.
 - b. If a person is unvaccinated or it has been more than six months from the second dose of Pfizer/Moderna (or more than two months from J&J vaccine) and not yet boosted, he or she must quarantine for 5 days and must always adhere to strict mask and social distancing requirements upon return.**
 - c. Quarantine begins after the last potential exposure to a COVID-positive individual. Example: If one is living in the same household with a COVID-positive individual and unable to separate/isolate from that individual, quarantine will begin when the COVID-positive individual's isolation period ends. If the person can separate/isolate, quarantine begins after last exposure to the COVID-positive individual.
 - d. All who are exposed must test on day 5 after exposure to ensure a negative test. The first day of exposure is counted as day one (1). If symptoms occur, individuals should immediately quarantine until a negative test confirms symptoms are not attributable to COVID-19.** Staff and students must provide documentation of test results anytime a test is taken off-site. Results from over-the-counter home testing kits will not be accepted.
 - e. A staff member/student does not have to quarantine if he or she has had Covid within the past 3 months if they have no symptoms, regardless of booster status.
3. All areas visited by a symptomatic, COVID-positive person will be sanitized and remain vacant for at least 24 hours.
4. Administrators may have to temporarily close classrooms, hallways, schools, or campus for cleaning.
5. Staff members who are required to isolate due to exposure or a positive test will consult with their supervisor, who will then consult with the superintendent regarding use of leave or working remotely.
6. Staff and students who are **not boosted** and have no symptoms are encouraged to do on-campus, rapid testing once per week on Thursdays. If positive, the staff member/student will immediately be given the molecular test and **MUST** quarantine. If the molecular test is negative, the staff member or student may return to school immediately. Students must have a parent consent form signed before testing can begin. Staff are highly encouraged to take part in COVID testing on Thursdays.
7. Staff and students are highly encouraged to provide the principal or supervisor with a copy of his or her vaccination/booster card, if applicable.
8. An outbreak is defined as ≥ 3 cases of COVID-19 in a classroom or group of 30 or less (sports team, group activity, band, or other) or 10% or more of larger groups infected over a 14-day

period. In an outbreak setting, quarantine and exclusion from the school setting will take place for all exposed persons **who are not boosted** in the outbreak group.

9. MSDB will consider dismissal of the entire campus under the following conditions.
 - If ≥ 3 individual classroom settings, defined groups, or defined buildings are experiencing simultaneous outbreaks, or
 - If multiple absentees or exclusions of students and staff are leading to disruptions in on-campus functioning and impacting the learning environment as determined by the schools.
 - If dismissal of the campus is warranted,
 - All extracurricular activities will be canceled according to MHSAA guidelines.
 - The dismissal time frame will **5 days** from the date the last COVID-19 case was at the school during the infectious period.
 - **The dismissal time frame may have to be extended for issues beyond our control such as delayed testing, extended wait times, infection after the 5th day, etc.**

Mississippi Department of Health (MSDH) Alert: All persons, including fully vaccinated individuals, infected with COVID-19 must remain in the home or other appropriate residential location for 10 days from onset of illness. The failure or refusal to obey the lawful order of a health officer is, at a minimum, a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$500 or imprisonment for six months or both.

Sports and Events

MSDB will follow state, county, and city ordinances related to groups of people gathering but reserves the right to create policy above and beyond the ordinance requirements.

COMMUNICATIONS

Primary Health and Safety District Contacts

Dr. Jeremy Stinson, Superintendent
jeremy.stinson@msdbk12.org
(601) 984-8203

Dupe Oluwatade, Health Clinic Supervisor
modupeola.oluwatade@msdbk12.org
(601) 984-8121

Information and Updates

Follow our Facebook pages:

MSD: <https://www.facebook.com/MississippiSchoolForTheDeaf/>

MSB: <https://www.facebook.com/mississippischoolfortheblind/>

Check our websites often:

MSDB: <http://www.msdbk12.org> (coming February 2022)

MSD: <http://www.msd.k12.ms.us>

MSB: <http://www.msb.k12.ms.us>

Appendix A: Virtual Learning Commitment

Criteria Checklist: Please answer each statement/question by circling YES or NO and return this to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

- 1. I have reliable high speed internet service at home (a working hotspot device qualifies). YES or NO**
- 2. My child has a district-issued device to be used for virtual learning. YES or NO**
- 3. My child will have a quiet and private designated space at home free of disruptions from household noises and free from disruptions from other people in the home. YES or NO**
- 4. I understand and agree that my child MUST maintain good attendance. Three (3) or more unexcused absences in nine weeks may result in attendance violations. YES or NO**
- 5. I understand and agree that my child will be logged in for each class, on-time, every day. Three (3) or more late logins OR three (3) or more occurrences of the student not completing the full school day in nine weeks may result in attendance violation. YES or NO**
- 6. I understand and agree that my child will be held to the same code of student conduct requirements as in-person students. YES or NO**
- 7. I understand and agree that my child MUST attend school in-person on designated assessment days. Students will be scheduled in a manner that will allow for social distancing on assessment days. YES or NO**

I understand this document is for use only if the school is required to operate virtually or if my child is required to isolate/quarantine at home or under the care of a doctor preventing them from attending in-person classes.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Parent/Guardian Name: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____

Printed Student Name: _____



MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL FOR
MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

**2021-2022
COVID
OPERATING
PLAN**

Revised *January 6, 2021*

INTRODUCTION

Though we were hoping we would be operating under much less restrictive guidelines, we still find ourselves in a pandemic, and **will continue** mask-wearing and social distancing mandates to mitigate spread. In addition, we must continue identifying possible cases, isolate positive cases, and conduct contact tracing in collaboration with the Mississippi Department of Health (MSDH).

As we did last year, we are working diligently to maintain a plan with two major priorities. First, we seek to create and maintain a safe and secure environment. Second, we attempt to provide learning experiences both inside and outside the classroom that promote scholarship, service, creativity, and community to the fullest extent possible. In balancing the two, we have decided to bring all students to campus this year and offer face-to-face instruction. To help us in our efforts to maintain a safe environment for everyone, all members of the MSMS community are expected to:

- Comply with current COVID-19 protocols while on campus.
- Keep their MSMS ID's with them at all times.
- Continue practicing preventative measures including symptom monitoring, personal safety practices, physical distancing, and cleaning and disinfection.

Inside this document, you will find general information. Please note that we are still hopeful that we will be able to return to normal at some point in the near future. We have attempted to address all questions we have encountered. If you still have questions, please feel free to contact the appropriate departments. **This document serves as the *Safe Return to School Plan for MSMS*.**

Wishing you safety and prosperity,

MSMS Administrators

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HEALTH AND SAFETY

Vaccination

Free vaccinations are available to all members of the campus community. If you are interested in receiving a free COVID-19 vaccine on campus at our Health Center, please contact the Office of Student Affairs at 662-329-7766.

For more information and if you have questions, please visit MSDH's site at: https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/14,0,420,976.html

For more information related to vaccine effectiveness, please review https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/effectiveness.html?s_cid=10464:vaccine%20effectiveness:sem.ga:p:RG:GM:gen:PTN:FY21

Daily Symptom Checking

All members of the MSMS community should perform a self-assessment of possible COVID-19 symptoms daily. See list of symptoms below. Any resident experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (or any other illness) should not interact with others and should be tested for COVID-19. They should immediately contact their health care provider and the Campus Health Center (662-329-7289).

Symptoms of COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

Face Coverings

Face coverings are required for everyone indoors, regardless of vaccination status, and must be worn covering the nose and mouth. Due to the recent increase in the of COVID-19 cases and aligned with recommendations made by the Mississippi Department of Health, MSMS and MUW

require face coverings indoors (except when alone in a personal space) on campus regardless of vaccination-status. Face coverings are not required when outdoors unless you within three (3) feet of others.

This policy will be re-evaluated as needed.

Physical Distancing

Please remember that wearing face coverings is no substitute for social distancing. The most effective distance is at least six (6) feet. However, we urge everyone to maintain at least three (3) feet of distance at all times. Elevators in the academic buildings should remain single occupancy, and residential hall elevators can accommodate **two (2)** individuals.

Physical Distancing in the Classroom

Classroom seating for students will be at least 3 feet apart with 6 feet of distance between students and the lecturer or presenter. Teachers may walk around to observe student responses, which means they may be within 3 feet for briefs moments. Some subjects such as world languages are more effectively taught when students can see the teachers' lips as they pronounce words. In these cases, teachers are allowed to stand eight (8) feet from students behind a plastic, clear screen.

Sanitization

Sanitizing wipes and hand sanitizer will be available in buildings across campus. Individuals are asked to take personal responsibility for their personal spaces and other spaces they utilize by wiping down surfaces before and after use.

Campus Health Center

The Campus Health Center is staffed Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. except for university holidays. Nurse practitioners are available to see MUW and MSMS students and employees along with their dependents age three and over. The cost of the visit for students and employees is free. Dependents are charged a \$15 fee. The health center charges a nominal fee to cover the cost of any medication or supplies used and for complete physical exams that require lab testing.

Contact Tracing

The Campus Health Center will continue to perform contact tracing duties for the campus community. Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or who has been exposed to someone who tested positive should contact the health center regardless of vaccination status. The Campus Health Center number is 662-329-7289.

Isolation

Individuals who receive a positive test result will be required to isolate at home for five (5) days. After five (5) days, individuals who are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications and with resolving symptoms will be allowed to return to campus followed by strict mask-wearing, even in dorm rooms and outdoor settings, as well as meal protocols outlined below for an additional 5 days.

Quarantine

Individuals who are not fully vaccinated as defined by the CDC* will be required to quarantine at home for 5 days after being identified as a close contact to someone who tested positive for COVID-19 followed by strict mask-wearing, even in dorm rooms and outdoor settings, as well as meal protocols outlined below for an additional 5 days.

Vaccinated individuals (with proof of vaccination) and identified as close contacts will not be asked to engage in a full quarantine, but will be asked to adhere to the following for 3 days:

1. Follow strict distancing rules (maintain six feet of distance from others at all times).
2. Receive a rapid test on day 3 after exposure.
3. Comply with stricter meal protocols: Eat at a table inside the cafeteria without other students or get food to go from the cafeteria.

**** Note: Individuals who have received two mRNA vaccinations, or the J&J vaccination, AND have been boosted are considered fully vaccinated. Individuals who received their second mRNA dose less than 6 months ago, or the J&J vaccination less than 2 months ago, are also considered fully vaccinated until they are eligible to receive their boosters.***

Employees should contact their supervisors and the MSMS Executive Director's Office for leave information (662-329-7674).

COVID Testing

The Campus Health Center will continue to offer PCR and rapid COVID testing for individuals exhibiting any sign or symptom of COVID-19. The rapid test is offered free of charge. Students who are not vaccinated will be included in random testing, which is conducted weekly. **There is a fee associated with PCR test. The Health Center does not take insurance. Please check with your provider to inquire about reimbursement for test.**

Mental Health

For Employees:

MSMS and MUW benefits-eligible employees and members of their households are covered under the Humana Employee Assistance Program (EAP) and Work-Life Services Benefit at no cost to the employee. The services provided are available to help you and your household members manage everyday life issues that can affect you at home and work. They offer assistance and counseling in person or by telephone, a variety of resources for health and wellness as well as numerous referral services and it's all confidential. Follow the link for Humana's contact information and to learn more about this benefit:

<https://www.muw.edu/hr/employees/benefits#EAPWL>

For Students:

Our Professional School Counselors will continue to provide guidance for students related to college and careers. They will still meet one on one throughout the year with students and in small groups as needed either face to face or virtually.

MSMS is committed to continuing to support student mental health through counseling and related services, especially given all the challenges students will continue to face as a result of the health crisis. MSMS contracts with two mental health counselors to provide counseling sessions. To schedule a counseling appointment or for any other questions, students are encouraged to contact Ms. Shelle Bates or Dr. Heath Stevens.

Consequences for Violating COVID Protocols

Violation of COVID protocols for students falls under "Disrespect/Noncompliance" and will be treated as a Level 2 infraction (Offense #2: Disrespect/Noncompliance). As stated in the Student Handbook, the consequence for the first infraction is a Weekend Hall Restriction, and the second violation of COVID protocols will result in a seven-day in-hall restriction. The third infraction will necessitate a three-day suspension, and a fourth violation will result in dismissal.

Employees violating COVID protocols will receive a written warning for the first infraction, and they will be suspended without pay for the second violation. The third violation could result in termination.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Academic Continuity

This year, we returned to our normal schedule, which consists of eight (8) classes on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and five (5) classes on Tuesday and Thursday. This schedule allows more flexibility for students to meet throughout the week with teachers. We are also reinstating our weekly tutorials Monday through Wednesday nights from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Since we expect students to be out at times due to quarantine, instructors will make arrangements for students to view classes in real time. Students absent for other reasons should not expect real-time class viewing but are encouraged to contact their teachers to plan to make up any work missed when they return. In addition to helping students view live classes, teachers will schedule individual or in small group virtual meetings as needed. Although instructors will work with students while students are absent due to quarantine, students are responsible for contacting instructors as soon as they are aware of the need to quarantine.

Due to the fragile nature of this pandemic, teachers have been asked to be prepared to shift to virtual instruction if the sudden need arises. To assist with this possible transition, MSMS will continue to utilize the learning management platform: Canvas. **Additionally, families will be surveyed at the beginning of each semester regarding access to the internet and computer devices in their homes as well as signing acknowledgement of these policies.**

Mississippi State Board Policy Rule 56.2 governs virtual, blended and online classes. Although MSMS will not include an individual virtual option, in the event that the entire student body needs to quarantine as defined by the state of Mississippi's Covid Guidelines, the following will be standard operating procedure:

- Students will participate in distance learning daily with instruction by MSMS teachers provided on a regular basis.
- In situations where access to the internet is not available to students, courses content/assignments/instruction will be downloaded to a device or flash drive and provided to the student. If access to a device cannot be provided by the family, MSMS will provide a device or other learning opportunities and/or print materials.
 - Devices (as needed and available) will be checked out by students with parental permission. Parents and students are required to sign a district technology acceptable use agreement prior to beginning each school year.
 - Training will include care/use of device, acceptable use policy, internet safety, and use of Canvas.
 - Attendance will be recorded according to MDE guidelines.
 - Students participating in virtual classrooms will demonstrate appropriate behavior and dress as listed in the student handbook. Behavior or dress that does not meet the standards listed in the student handbook will be documented by the teacher and reported to the appropriate administrator. A parent meeting will be scheduled.

- Teachers and other staff members will provide assistance to students by phone or other means on a regular basis.
- Each teacher/counselor will complete district required Canvas training and will have a functioning Canvas Classroom in place prior to school opening.
 - Course content/assignments/instruction will be updated on a regular basis.
 - Grades will be assigned following normal district grading policies as listed in student handbook.
 - Counselors will provide support for students virtually or by phone. Students on Academic Probation or Academic Watch will be monitored on a regular basis. A modified MTSS/TST process will be utilized.
- All Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) policies will be followed in the virtual environment as in the face-to-face environment.
- MSMS is committed to fostering an educational environment that does not discriminate and offers equal access to educational opportunities for all its students.

Athletics

MSMS will follow the guidelines set forth by MHSAA.

Clubs and Organizations

Student clubs and organizations will continue to operate during the school year in person. Individual clubs may choose to meet virtually. Guidelines are in place to ensure social distancing and maintaining a safe environment if meetings are held face to face. Club sponsors are responsible for scheduling physical or virtual spaces for meetings.

Travel

Unless traveling to an area with a travel restriction, travel procedures will return to normal, and individuals traveling should be aware of the conditions that exist at their destination. Travelers should adhere to international travel guidelines published by the CDC and contact the Campus Health Center if there are questions.

When students are transported by bus, occupancy will be limited to one student per seat and masks will be worn. When weather permits, windows shall be opened to bring in more fresh air and reduce concentration possibilities.

Housing and Residence Life

Providing a healthy living environment for residential students is a top priority for MSMS Residence Life. To maintain wellness within the congregate housing setting of residence halls,

additional policies and procedures should be expected by residents as follows:

1. All who enter the building will be required to wear a mask.
2. Upon entrance, each student, guest, or staff member must sanitize hands. A wall mounted sanitizer dispenser will be available to the right of both front entrances.
3. Students are encouraged to supply their own writing utensils for the purpose of signing in and out.
4. Students are encouraged to wash their hands frequently.
5. Students are encouraged to sanitize their door handles to their rooms and bathrooms daily.
6. General hygiene is a must. Students are STRONGLY encouraged to shower daily.
7. Thorough cleaning is expected in student rooms.
8. No furniture will be allowed to leave the student's room.
9. No more than four (4) students should be in a room at one time. Doors must remain open, masks must be worn, and students must still practice social distancing.
10. Students are not required to wear masks in their rooms with roommates and suitemates.
11. Elevators in the residence halls will be limited to **two (2)** people at one time.

Students should perform a self-assessment of possible COVID-19 symptoms daily. Any resident experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 (or any other illness) at any time during the day should not interact with other residents and immediately contact a staff member. The staff/faculty member will then notify his or her department office, which in turn will notify the Campus Health Center.

Emergency Care Closet

The Emergency Care Closet was created by our Parents Lending United Support (PLUS) Officers as a safeguard for our students to provide necessities such as: shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, feminine products, laundry detergent, etc. To decrease travel off campus, the Emergency Care Closet will be available for students who need items. Students can notify their respective Hall Directors for items they need.

MSMS SERVICES

Dining

MUW Dining is committed to creating an environment where MSMS Students feel safe to dine on campus during these unprecedented times. All dining locations will be open during all regular hours of operation; any changes in hours of operation will be communicated promptly. For the most up-to-date hours of operation or view the daily menu download the BITE by Sodexo from your favorite app store or visit the MUW Dining website at www.muw.sodexomyway.com. Below are some of the preventive measures we are taking:

- Signage encouraging social distancing.
- Face masks are required for all MUW Dining Staff. Students, Faculty, and Patrons will be required to follow MUW campus policy on face masks.
- High-touch surfaces and utensils will be cleaned/switched out frequently.
- Self Service stations will have gloves available for those who don't feel comfortable touching utensils at these stations.
- To-Go container will be available upon request; students will be able to make their meal selection but must leave the dining hall after making their selection.

MUW Dining will maintain a designated area for MSMS Students only. The public, W Students, W Faculty & Staff, MUW Dining Staff, will be prohibited from using this area. If you have questions, comments, or concerns, please contact MUW Dining by calling 662-329-7411.

Stark Recreation

Stark Recreation's goal is to continue to help ensure a safe environment for everyone. While booking a workout session is no longer required, please see below for the most recent COVID-19 policies. These will continue to be monitored and adjusted accordingly.

The Rec Center is open Monday - Friday, from 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Currently Accessible:

- Strength & Conditioning Room
- Indoor Track
- Fitness Classes
- Tennis Courts
- Boot Camp Classes (Fee based)

MUW Campus Rec COVID-19 Policies

- Masks must be worn while around others even if fully vaccinated when entering the building and if NOT working out
- Masks are NOT required to be worn while working out
- If you are experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, entry will not be permitted
- Sanitize hands frequently
- Maintain appropriate social distance
- Wipe down equipment after each use

Your Health is Our Priority

Stark Recreation has implemented the following measures:

- Throughout each shift, all equipment is frequently sanitized by scheduled employees
- A sanitizing mister using a COVID-19 EPA approved solution will be used throughout the day

- Additional hand sanitizers have been placed around facility
- Equipment has been moved to allow for social distancing

Suspended Services

- No towel service
- No shower access
- No basketball gyms
- No racquetball courts
- No guest passes
- No Functional Fitness classes

Library

The library is operating its normal hours this year, and no additional COVID protocols outside of those of MUW are being instituted.

Frequently Asked Questions

Vaccinations

Q: Are Covid-19 vaccines required by MSMS?

A: No, vaccination is not required for students, faculty and staff. However, MSMS strongly encourages individuals to get vaccinated.

Q: Can I ask about an individual's vaccination status?

A: No, an individual's vaccination status is protected personal information, and faculty and staff should not ask individuals about their vaccination status.

Q: What should I do if someone asks me about my vaccination status?

A: Generally, you should not be asked about your vaccination status. Exceptions may include times when you are seeking medical treatment, during contact tracing, or in the execution of testing protocols. Otherwise, if you are asked, you can politely respond that you are not comfortable providing personal medical information.

Employees

Q: What leave is available for quarantine or isolation due to COVID-19? Can I telecommute while quarantined?

A: An employee will need to use personal leave, medical leave or leave without pay according to State law. Telecommuting may be an option and will be evaluated by the supervisor on an individual basis.

Q: Will MSMS supply PPE, cleaning supplies and hand sanitizer for offices/departments and how do I request supplies?

A: Yes, you may contact your department office to request supplies and refills.

Appendix A: Family Information

I understand that, although the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science is committed to safely keeping its students in the classroom and providing face-to face instruction, pandemic infection rates could result in extreme situations which temporarily necessitate the temporary use of virtual instruction. To aid school staff in making necessary arrangements should this become necessary, I am providing the following information by circling either YES or NO

YES or NO 1. I have reliable high speed internet service at home (A working hotspot device qualifies.).

YES or NO 2. My child has either a district-issued computer or a personal computer device equipped with a camera and video streaming capability. (A smart phone does not meet this requirement.).

I also acknowledge and agree to the following in the event MSMS finds it necessary to temporarily make use of virtual instruction.

1. The MSMS attendance policies apply to times of temporary virtual instruction just like regular face-to-face classes; and my child will be expected to log in for each class, on-time, every day.
2. The MSMS rules that pertain to student conduct pertain to times of temporary virtual instruction in the same way they would if the student were on campus.
3. My child will have a quiet and private designated space at home free of disruptions from household noises and free from disruptions from other people in the home.

I understand this document is applicable only if the school finds it necessary to operate virtually.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____ Date: _____