



Public Health
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Montgomery County
Public Health District

Update to the July 20 Letter of Advisement

Date: August 24, 2020

To: The Montgomery County Area Public School Superintendents

From: Charles Sims, MD
Montgomery County Public Health Authority

Randy Johnson, Executive Director
Montgomery County Public Health District

Regarding: Follow-up Guidance Memorandum Regarding Precautions as Schools Open for In-Person Student-Teacher Classes September 8th.

As all Montgomery County area school districts prepare to complete their transition to in-class instruction, for those students and families wishing to return to face-to-face classes beginning September 8th, we recommend the following precautions:

- **All teachers and staff should wear a mask** in the classroom and in any enclosed area, or in any area where you may be within six feet of another person.
- If teachers or staff wear a face shield, they should also wear a mask with the face shield. Wearing the face shield doesn't filter any of the air you are inhaling. It also allows the air you are exhaling to float in the air longer, to possibly land on someone or something.
- MCPHD recommends that **students of all ages, including students under eight years of age, wear a mask at all times during the school day** to reduce risk of infection.
- Students should be told to not share masks.
- **Teachers and students should practice good and frequent hand washing/cleansing.**
- **Teachers and students should refrain from touching their face, nose, eyes.**
- Note – MCPHD does not recommend wearing gloves in place of frequent hand hygiene. Wearing the same pair of gloves throughout the day spreads germs just as does the absence of hand hygiene.
- **MCPHD recommends frequently disinfecting the environment**, especially often-touched surfaces (desk tops, door knobs) throughout the day.
- **When possible, limit crowd size.** Try to insure that individuals in crowds can remain six feet away from each other.
- **Monitor staff and students for fever, coughing, sore throat, and/or loss of taste and/or smell.**



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Experience has taught us that if staff properly and continuously wear their PPE, they greatly reduce the possibility of becoming infected.

Together each of us is responsible for keeping our schools open and keeping all our staff, teachers, and students safe. Continuous diligence regarding mask-wearing, hand washing, cleaning the environment, and distancing from one another are the keys to completing a full semester of in-class instruction.

Best wishes for the fall semester,

Charles Sims, MD,
Montgomery County Public
Health District

Randy Johnson, Executive Director,
Montgomery County Public
Health District