



MIDLAND ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL (MACS) Re-Entry Plan 2021-2022

The conditions surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic are continually evolving, and Midland Academy Charter School's (MACS) Safe Return-to-School plans will be constantly evaluated to adapt to the continuing trends of the COVID-19 virus, especially in the City of Midland, Texas.

Please know that Midland Academy Charter School will follow recommendations for school opening and operation from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), as well as state and local health officials. Circumstances related to COVID-19 may change throughout the coming school year, and this document will be updated as conditions change.

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Health and Safety Measures

Infection Control Measures

- **Schools will abide by any Governor Orders regarding face coverings**

If the Governor's Order ceases, students and staff will have the option to wear face coverings when they cannot maintain social distance as well as in hallways and common areas. Face coverings include cloth masks, gaiters, face shields or anything else that provides covering over the nose and mouth. All face coverings must be school appropriate at the discretion of the administrator.

- It is important to note that if students or staff come into "close contact" with someone who tests positive for COVID-19, they will be required to self-isolate for a period of time recommended by the CDC.
- Social distancing of at least 6 feet will be encouraged at all times when possible.
- Staff will maintain social distancing and monitoring at restrooms whenever possible.
- Students and staff must provide their own personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms, entrances, and throughout common spaces.
- Staff and students will regularly wash or sanitize hands.
- Students will have instruction on effective hand-washing. Students will wash hands or use hand sanitizer before eating, following restroom breaks and after recess.

Campus Operations

- Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms, entrances, and throughout common spaces.
- Campuses will review options to reduce large group gatherings at the start and end of the day as well as other events.
- Visual aids will be used to illustrate appropriate spacing and traffic flow throughout the building.
- Class transitions at secondary schools will implement protocols to minimize congestion in the hallway and in common areas.
- Classroom doors will be propped open, when possible, during the day to reduce high-touch areas.
- Where possible, one-way traffic throughout campus corridors will be established.
- Schedules and protocols for the use of common areas will be developed (labs, flexible spaces, libraries, conference rooms, etc.), including how to sanitize between uses. Hand sanitizer will be available in all common areas.

Learning Environments

- The number of students participating in small group instruction at one time will be limited as much as possible.
- Staff will sanitize and disinfect working surfaces and shared objects regularly.
- Staff will limit the use of shared supplies where possible.

Breakfast / Lunch

- Self-serve counters will be eliminated.
- Students will be encouraged not to share food or drink.
- All tables will be sanitized between lunches.

Isolation Procedures Related to COVID-19

- If a student or staff member has displayed symptoms of COVID-19, the school nurse will provide a clinical assessment to determine if and when a student/staff needs to be sent home
 - If a student or staff member is assessed and exhibits symptoms of COVID-19 during the school day, the cohort will be placed in an alternate area while the room is being disinfected
- Any individuals who themselves either: (a) are lab-confirmed to have COVID-19; or (b) experience the symptoms of COVID-19 (listed below) must stay at home throughout the infection period, and cannot return to campus until the school system screens the individual to determine any of the below conditions for campus re-entry have been met:
 - In the case of an individual who was diagnosed with COVID-19, the individual may return to school when the following criteria are met:
 - at least three days (72 hours) have passed since recovery (resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications);
 - the individual has improvement in symptoms (e.g., cough, shortness of breath);
- District communication will be provided to the staff and students who came in contact with anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 **See Notification Procedures below*
- MACS will immediately sanitize all areas that had exposure from someone who tested positive. In the event that this cannot be done before the start of the next school day, MACS may need to close specific areas to complete this process if relocating students is not an option.
- Any student requiring quarantine will transition to remote learning for the period of self-isolation.

Clinic Procedures Related to COVID-19

- Students or staff who exhibit symptoms will be evaluated and assessed by the school nurse.
- If COVID-19 symptoms are present the student will be isolated from other students and asked to put on a face covering until the parent arrives.
- Nurse will notify campus administrators to move the student's class so that the space can be disinfected.
- Student will be escorted to the vehicle upon parent arrival.
- Nurse will provide parents/staff with Return to School Criteria.

Notification Procedures Related to COVID-19

- Consistent with school notification requirements for other communicable diseases, and consistent with legal confidentiality requirements, schools must notify all teachers, staff, and families of all students in a school if a lab-confirmed COVID-19 case is identified among students, teachers or staff who participate in any on-campus activities. Those who are determined to have had close contact will be individually contacted.
- Close contact is defined as:
 - being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on while not wearing a mask or face shield); or
 - being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes, while not wearing a mask or face shield

Example: A student tests positive in the third grade. The parents are notified that a student has tested positive at the campus. MACS determines who has been in "close contact" and contacts those families to determine next steps (which may or may not include self-isolation depending on if masks were worn and/or degree of contact).

Definition of COVID-19 Symptoms

In evaluating whether an individual has symptoms consistent with COVID-19, individuals will be asked if they have recently begun experiencing any of the following in a way that is not normal for them:

- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees F
- Loss of taste or smell
- Cough
- Difficulty breathing
- Shortness of breath
- Headache
- Chills
- Sore throat
- Shaking or exaggerated shivering
- Significant muscle pain or ache
- Diarrhea

Definition of “Close Contact”

This document refers to “close contact” with an individual who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19. Close contact is determined by an appropriate public health agency. For clarity, close contact is defined as:

- a. being directly exposed to infectious secretions (e.g., being coughed on while not wearing a mask or face shield); or
- b. being within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes, while not wearing a mask or face shield; if either occurred at any time in the last 14 days at the same time the infected individual was infectious.

Individuals are presumed infectious at least two days prior to symptom onset or, in the case of asymptomatic individuals who are lab-confirmed with COVID-19, two days prior to the confirming lab test.

Social Emotional and Mental Health Support Systems

Addressing the mental health and social-emotional development of all students, staff and community by following best practices in the areas of:

- School-based mental health services
- Behavioral support systems
- Family engagement and support practices
- Staff supports
- Other key systems and support

Social Emotional Learning

- Social Emotional Learning lessons and activities to support students related to COVID-19 experiences, trauma, and school closure will be developed for all campuses.
- Counseling support will be accessible to both Face-to-Face and Remote learners.

Family Support

- Families will be provided information on how to access resources for mental health and wellness.
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Parent Communication

Providing families with clear and concise communication through the following outbound channels:

- Email / Text Messages
- Social Media
- District: Macharter.org
- District Newsletters

Communication Tools and Channels

- Parents will receive emails from MACS sent through the School Messenger system.
- Information about Back to School 2021 will be posted on the MACS website.
- MACS will share campus-specific information with parents via email, newsletters, and other campus communication tools.
- Regular updates will be posted on MACS social media channels (Facebook and DOJO).

Circumstances related to COVID-19 may change throughout the coming school year and we will keep all parents informed if conditions change.

THIS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT ANY TIME DUE TO COVID-19 CIRCUMSTANCES. July 26, 2021