



**Mountain Village Charter School
COVID Management Plan
Academic Year 2021-2022
DRAFT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

Introduction

This plan explains the Mountain Village Charter School's strategies for minimizing transmission of the COVID-19 virus within our school community, while also providing a high quality academic experience for our students. The mitigation strategies described below are informed by guidelines provided by CDC and NH DHHS, as well as public comment gathered from families, staff and board members of the MVCS community. This plan was initially developed by a planning workgroup composed of the following members of the MVCS community, authorized by the MVCS Board of Trustees:

- Katy Gautsch
- Sara Dupont
- Robin Goldstein
- Erin Marlowe
- Jamie Hannon

Overview

The guidelines below should be envisioned as "layered" strategies that have an additive effect in limiting virus transmission - each is an important part of the overall plan. Also, the plan should be seen as responsive to evolving pandemic conditions, and elements of this plan can similarly evolve, relaxing or tightening as is appropriate and warranted, or recommended by the CDC or NH DHHS. The elements of this plan will be revisited on a monthly basis by the COVID planning workgroup and Board of Trustees, taking into consideration all relevant information.

Finally, the primary governmental guidance followed by MVCS will be that provided by the NH DHHS, followed by the CDC. The COVID-19 "dashboard" provided by the NH DHHS (<https://www.covid19.nh.gov/dashboard>) will be the primary source of data used for COVID-related decision making by MVCS. Specifically, when considering the level of COVID infection and transmission in our towns and counties, the data source will be that provided by the NH DHHS at <https://www.covid19.nh.gov/dashboard/map>.

Masks and facial coverings

Masks are not required outdoors.

Indoors, masks are:

- required for all students,
- required for all non-vaccinated staff,
- optional for teachers who provide the school with proof of vaccination *and* are further than 3' from students.

Masks should be multiple-layer cloth with a form-fit around the nose and mouth.

Masks are always allowed for those individuals who choose to wear them.

Indoor Ventilation

Open windows with exhaust fans are preferred at all times. A single exhaust fan with multiple windows for cross ventilation is adequate. In cold ambient conditions it is acceptable to remove the fan and even shut the windows if necessary for student learning success, as long as other



mitigation strategies are followed (i.e., masking, social distancing) as described elsewhere in this plan.

Air cleaning units should be on and placed as close to the center of the room as possible. The school will ensure that it follows the recommended filter servicing schedule of the Austin units to promote effective operation.

Social Distancing

Indoors and outdoors, 3'+ spacing is recommended. Teachers have flexibility to bring students in closer for brief periods (<10 minutes) for educational purposes.

Vaccination Policy

MVCS will not require vaccination of any staff or student at this time. The school will, however, actively promote vaccination where possible. The school will also *request* vaccination status from all members of the school community, and may use that status to adjust other mitigation strategies (e.g., fully vaccinated teacher able to teach unmasked as described elsewhere in this plan).

Hygiene Practices

MVCS will provide hand sanitizer for all classroom spaces, including in bathrooms and at outdoor hand hygiene stations. Outdoor hand hygiene stations will be set-up in key locations on campus. All on campus people will wash their hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Students will receive handwashing instruction at the beginning of the school year and at regular intervals as is determined necessary by classroom teachers. If soap and water are not available, alcohol-based hand sanitizer will be.

Quarantine and Contact Tracing

The school will follow the quarantine and contact tracing guidelines provided by the NH DHHS:

- People who are diagnosed with COVID-19 must still isolate at home until they have met criteria for discontinuation of isolation
- Close household contacts of someone diagnosed with COVID-19 will be required to quarantine (e.g., people living or sleeping in the same household)
- In an outbreak situation, NH DPHS may choose to expand quarantine to other non-household contacts to control the outbreak
- Quarantine of an entire classroom will no longer be conducted
- Non-household contacts will be asked to self-observe and monitor for symptoms

Daily Health Screenings

MVCS will not conduct daily temperature checks or other health screenings of each student every day at school.

There will be no daily health screening form to complete, but families will be asked to maintain a high level of vigilance for flu-like symptoms in their child. (These flu-like symptoms are explained clearly in a separate *Daily Health Checklist*, provided to families separately from this plan.)

Children displaying flu-like symptoms should stay home until receiving a negative COVID test. Students who have tested COVID-negative but are displaying cold symptoms such as sniffles or cough will be allowed to return to campus, and follow all MVCS COVID mitigation guidelines. Students who show flu-like symptoms during the school day will be asked to return home and get a COVID test.



Facility Cleanings

Professional facility cleanings will be conducted twice weekly (typically at mid-week and weekend intervals). In the event of a positive case, the classroom will be professionally cleaned and disinfected. Staff and students will wipe down and clean heavily used surfaces every day.

Cohorting

Student cohorts will not be separated by age, campus, classroom or any other means.

Campus Visitors

Visitors to the MVCS campus must contact the school ahead of time to plan their visit. Visitors will be required to be masked indoors and follow all MVCS COVID guidelines.

Travel

There is no requirement for quarantine following travel within the domestic United States. Rules and guidelines from the NH DHHS for those who travel internationally or on board a cruise ship may be found at <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/travel-guidance.pdf>.

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