

# *Meridian 223 Parent Guide to COVID Protocols*

August 2022

This is a summary of the current M223 COVID protocols and is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all possible scenarios. Return dates will be provided by Health Services staff within 48 hours of notification that your student has tested positive for COVID-19.

## **Current Masking Policy: Masks are optional**

Masks are **required**:

- When experiencing COVID symptoms and seeing the nurse
- On days 6-10 when returning to school after a positive COVID test
- On school grounds after a positive COVID test

## **Current COVID Protocols**

### **My Student Tested Positive for COVID**

- May return to school a **full 5-10 days past symptom onset** (or positive test date if asymptomatic)
- 1st day of symptoms is counted as day 0. Student is required to stay home from days 0-5 and their return date is on day 6.
- **Criteria to return prior to 10 days:**
  - Fever-free (without fever-reducing medication) for at least 24 hours
  - Vomiting and diarrhea free for at least 24 hours
  - Asymptomatic or symptoms are improving and no cough is present
  - Can wear a mask correctly and consistently for the next 5 days at school and remain socially distanced when removing masks for eating
  - **Please Note:** Masking from days 6-10 is a condition of your student's return per IDPH guidance. **Families who wish to avoid masking/social distancing should keep their student home until 10 days have elapsed.**
- Health services staff will provide 5-day return dates. If your student does not meet the above criteria on that date, please notify the school to have their return date adjusted.

## My Student Has a Household Member Who Tested Positive for COVID

- May continue coming to school if they have no symptoms and have not tested positive themselves.
- Testing is recommended on day 5 after exposure. Testing at school is available if requested.
- If symptoms develop, they must stay home.
  - Rapid tests may be administered, but a negative **PCR** test is needed to return to school if rapid test is negative.

## My Student is a Close Contact to Someone Who Tested Positive for COVID (non-household member)

- May continue coming to school if they have no symptoms and have not tested positive themselves.
- Testing is recommended on day 5 after exposure. Testing at school is available if requested.
- If symptoms develop, they must stay home.
  - Rapid tests may be administered, but a negative **PCR** test is needed to return to school if rapid test is negative.

## My Student Has Symptoms of COVID and is Not Tested

- May return to school a **full 5-10 days past symptom onset**
- Day of symptoms is counted as day "0" and their return date is day 6
- **Criteria to return prior to 10 days:**
  - Fever-free (without fever-reducing medication) for at least 24 hours
  - Vomiting and diarrhea free for at least 24 hours
  - Asymptomatic or symptoms are improving and no cough is present
  - Health services staff will provide 5-day return dates. If your student does not meet the above criteria on that date, please notify the school to have their return date adjusted.
  - In this scenario, we strongly recommend, but do not require masking on days 6-10