

## **2022-2023 MICS COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols**

Updated July 11, 2022

In accordance with the recommendations of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, MICS will implement the following protocols in support of maximizing learning while maintaining student and staff safety. These protocols will be reviewed throughout the school year in response to national, state and/or county updates regarding recommended practices.

The school will...

- Refer individuals to diagnostic testing who have symptoms of COVID-19 or disclose recent known close contact to a person with COVID-19.
- Have staff perform self-monitoring of symptoms.
- Have families conduct home-based symptom screening for students, following typical school policies to keep children at home when ill. Recommend that families refer children to diagnostic testing who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19.
- Immediately isolate symptomatic individuals to a designated area at the school.
- Require symptomatic persons to wear a mask while waiting to leave the facility or be tested.
- Require school nurses or dedicated school staff who provide direct patient care to wear appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and perform hand hygiene after removing PPE.
- Ensure symptomatic students remain under visual supervision of a staff member. The supervising adult should wear a face covering.
- Have a plan for how to transport an ill student or staff member home or to medical care.
- Implement cleaning and disinfecting procedures following CDC guidelines.
- Utilize NCDHHS quarantine guidance.
- Require use of a face covering at the discretion of the Executive Director in the following circumstances:
  - In accordance with guidance from the NCDHHS and/or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC")
  - Where an individual tests positive for COVID-19
  - Where an individual has symptoms of COVID-19
  - In accordance with state or federal law, including but not limited to the Americans with Disabilities Act and Amendments.

The MICS Board of Directors will review any sustained and systematic required use of face coverings extending beyond circumstances involving positive test results or symptoms of COVID-19 in the course of regular board review and approval of the face covering policy.

- Enforce that staff and students disclose and stay at home or go home if:
  - They are showing COVID-19 symptoms, until they meet criteria for return in accordance with guidance from NCDHHS.
  - They have tested positive for COVID-19, until they meet criteria for return in accordance with guidance from NCDHHS.
- Report to local health authorities any suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases among children and staff (as required by NCGS § 130A-136).
- Investigate instances of potential COVID-19 exposure and notify potentially exposed students or staff so they can receive appropriate public health guidance, testing, and access to any resources that might be needed.
- Adhere to the procedures for Exclusion and Criteria to return to school for allowing a student or staff member to return to school in accordance with guidance from NCDHHS.
- Enforce that if an individual becomes sick during the day, they do not use group transportation to return home and follow protocols outlined above.
- Enforce if a driver becomes sick during the day, they follow protocols outlined above and not return to drive students until they meet criteria to return.
- Create a plan for getting sick students home safely if they are not allowed to board the vehicle.