



MCCHS Policies on Covid-19 ~ FAQs

Covid-19 Guidelines at Marian Central

Q: Who has to wear a mask at Marian?

A: Per the ISBE and IDPH, and through the direction of the Diocese of Rockford, all students, staff, and visitors over the age of two must wear a mask (covering both the nose and mouth) in schools, regardless of the person's vaccination status.

Q: How are the desks arranged in the classrooms?

A: All classrooms are set up to ensure at least a 3-foot distance between seats.

Q: How is the lunchroom set up?

A: The lunchroom is set so that there are no more than 3 students per 8 foot table (two on one side and one on the other, alternating by table). Since students are seated closer than 6 feet apart and would be taking their masks off to eat, if the school needed to contact trace, close contacts in the lunchroom would be defined as those seated within 6 feet.

Q: Is the Marian Community notified if there are positive cases within the school?

A: Anytime a student or staff member tests positive, Marian, in conjunction with the Diocese of Rockford, will send a letter out via email notifying the community general information regarding the identified positive case.

Q: If my child is required to isolate or quarantine, does that count as absences?

A: Once it has been determined that a student is either Covid positive or requires quarantining due to close contact, any school days missed will be marked as "Q" and will not count against them as absences.

Q: What happens with my child's grades if s/he is isolated or quarantined?

A: If a student is to be isolated/quarantined, the student should work closely with each of his/her teachers via email and their Learning Management System and keep up on their work the best they can from home. Assignments that are missed due to isolation/quarantine will be marked in the gradebook with a "Q" annotation denoting that once received, the student will be able to get full earned credit. Student and teachers will need to work closely after the student's return in order to make a plan to make up whatever is still outstanding upon their return.

Signs of Sickness

Q: What happens if a student has symptoms of Covid-19?

A: If your child shows symptoms of Covid-19, you should keep your child home and contact your doctor. Your doctor may ask that your child participate in a Covid-19 test. You should alert the school's main office and not send your child or Marian siblings to school.

Q: What happens if my child had Covid-19 -like symptoms but the doctor identified the child with a diagnosis other than Covid-19?

A: If your child does not have Covid-19, but has another illness, you should keep your child home until the illness' symptoms have improved at least 75%. Marian Central will require you to provide a doctor's note referring to the alternative diagnosis before your child can return to school.

Q: What if my child's doctor tests my child for Covid-19?

A: If your child tested for Covid-19, s/he AND any Marian siblings must stay home until the results are provided. Please notify the school that your child was tested, and you are awaiting the results. Once the results are in, please again notify the school of the results and for further directions.

Q: What types of Covid-19 tests are/are not permissible?

A: According to MCHD, acceptable tests include RT-PCR, rapid PCR, and antigen tests. Tests that are NOT accepted include: self-tests from nasal specimen, including laboratory-based tests where the specimen is collected via self-collection unless performed at a site with CLIA certification. Antibody test results are also not accepted.

Q: My child is vaccinated. What happens if s/he is diagnosed with Covid-19?

A: Vaccinated individuals can still get Covid-19. If your child receives a positive Covid-19 result, s/he must follow the same protocol for isolation listed below as those who have not been vaccinated.

Q: What if my child's test is negative for Covid-19?

A: If your child tests negative, you should keep your child home until the illness' symptoms have improved at least 75%. If the absence is more than two days, Marian Central will require you to provide a doctor's note before your child can return to school.

POSITIVE COVID

Q: What happens if my child tests positive for Covid-19?

A: You should immediately contact your doctor for additional instructions. You should not send your child to school. You should also contact Marian Central's main office notifying the school about the positive test. Further directions on isolation will be provided by administration.

Q: When can an individual return to school after receiving a positive Covid-19 test?

A: If an individual tests positive for Covid-19, the individual must isolate and not return to school until they have met certain criteria. This includes:

- ✓ Provide a copy of the positive test to the school;
- ✓ At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared or a positive Covid test (whichever came first);
- ✓ 24 hours without a fever without fever-reducing medicine; AND
- ✓ A reduction of other Covid-19 symptoms by at least 75%.

**The individual who was in isolation due to being Covid positive does NOT need to provide a negative test to return to school, as they could test positive for up to 90 days.

Q: What happens if someone in the student's family/household tests positive for Covid-19?

A: If vaccinated, the student does not need to quarantine, unless they also have symptoms. If unvaccinated, the individual must stay home for at least 14 days from last exposure and must work with the McHenry County Health Dept, including answering their call from 312-777-1999. To return, once the student has completed the full 14 day quarantine, no negative test is required.

CLOSE CONTACT CASES

Q: What does it mean to be "Close Contact?"

A: The CDC defines "close contact" as

- being within 3 feet (with universal masking in place; 6 feet if masking is not occurring, ie: lunchroom) of someone who has Covid-19 for at least 15 cumulative minutes over a 24 hour period,
- had direct physical contact with a person with Covid-19 (touched, hugged, or kissed),
- provided care at home for someone who is sick with Covid-19,
- shared eating or drinking utensils with a person with Covid-19, or
- the person with Covid-19 sneezed, coughed, or somehow got respiratory droplets on you.

Q: What are the school's contact tracing procedures when a student is identified as Covid Positive and was in school within 2 days of the onset of symptoms and/or the positive test?

A: Once the school is notified of a positive case, it determines possible dates in which close contact could have occurred within the school. If there are any, the following occurs:

- Following the student's schedule, seating charts are reviewed by administration to ensure desks are at 3 foot distances,
- Administration emails the student's teachers to be sure there were no alterations in seating during exposure dates,
- If any students are identified as close contacts, they will be called to the office, parents will be notified, and the student will be sent home to quarantine.

Q: What are the expectations for quarantining for close contacts?

A: Following the options provided to schools, the following will occur:

- **If a student has been fully vaccinated** (had their last dose more than 2 weeks prior to the exposure), has provided vaccination documentation to the school, and does not have symptoms, then the student does NOT have to be quarantined.
- **If the student is not vaccinated**, the student must quarantine if they were exposed within 2 days of when the positive case first had symptoms, or an asymptomatic positive got tested.
- The identified **masked close contact** must then quarantine for 7 days after their last exposure to the positive individual, with the exposure date being day 0. ***If the close contact was identified as having contact to the positive Covid case while unmasked/in the cafeteria, and less than 6 feet, the close contact will have to quarantine for a full 14 days.*
- In order for the student **to return to school** (the earliest being day 8), they must provide a negative PCR test taken no earlier than day 6 and provide documentation to the school PRIOR to the student's return.
- If the family is **choosing not to provide a negative test**, the student must remain in quarantine for a full 14 days, returning on day 15.

Q: My child is vaccinated. Will I be informed if s/he is identified as a close contact with a positive case?

A: Yes, you will be notified, but if we already have your child's vaccine information on file at the school, we will not require the student to be quarantined.

****Please note that the guidance written above is subject to change based on updated guidance from the CDC, IDPH, or MCHD as well as changes in the county's level of transmission of Covid-19.**

If there is an update we will republish this document, highlighting the changes from the previous document.