



Metamora Grade School **COVID-19 Protocol and Guidelines**

There are many questions regarding the process of what happens when a person is symptomatic, possibly exposed, or tests positive. We hope the following information will help answer those questions. **This information is subject to change based on updated guidelines from the CDC and IDPH. Check back for the most recent information.**

(last update 9/29/2020)

COVID-19 symptoms include:

Fever (100.4 degrees F or higher)
new cough
nausea/vomiting/diarrhea
new congestion/runny nose
fatigue (unknown cause)

new onset headache
sore throat
abdominal pain (unknown cause)
new loss of taste/smell
muscle/body aches

shortness of breath

Students showing any symptom, as listed above, will require that student and siblings to be sent home and stay home until COVID-19 can be ruled-out.

If you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, call your primary care physician, or if it is an emergency, call 911.

If you desire to get tested for COVID-19 you may do so at:

Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) - one of the few sites that will test children

Located at the Peoria Civic Center's Fulton Street parking lot.

Open 7 days per week -- 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM (while daily testing supplies last)

Drive-up and walk-up testing available; this location uses a less-invasive nasal swab for testing

Testing Criteria: Any/all individuals with or without symptoms

Free of charge

For more information call 1-800-889-3931 or visit <http://dph.illinois.gov/testing>. This site also has information on other testing sites.

Once a person is tested, they must begin isolation while waiting for test results, even if they are asymptomatic.



Metamora Grade School



A “contact” is defined as a person who has been within 6 ft, for 15 min or more, of a person who has probable symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19.

If a staff member or student becomes symptomatic at school:

A staff member who becomes symptomatic at school should notify the office in order for emergency coverage to be arranged for the classroom. Students will not be left unattended at any time. The staff member will then report to the nurse’s office for evaluation. Symptomatic staff members will leave the building as soon as possible with information on symptoms, how to get tested, and isolation.

A student who becomes symptomatic at school should be sent to the nurse’s office for evaluation. If the student appears too weak to walk, call the school nurse and she will come get the student. A parent/guardian of a symptomatic student will be notified to come pick up the student as soon as possible. Information will be given on symptoms, how to get tested, and isolation. Office staff or an aide will gather student belongings when a student is sent home with COVID-19 symptoms.

Any student or staff member showing symptoms of COVID-19 will be placed in a monitored isolation area near the nurse’s office until they are able to go home. The nurse’s office will be reserved for treatment of injuries, medications, non-COVID symptoms, etc.

The symptomatic teacher or student’s desk, chair, and frequently touched surfaces in the classroom will be disinfected immediately. If the student or teacher has a positive test result, the classroom will then be closed for a deep cleaning.

When a person has a positive test result:

The health department automatically gets notification and will call that person within 24 hrs. to discuss symptoms, isolation and contacts.

Isolation - A 10 day isolation is required for positive test results. The isolation date begins with the day the test was performed or when the person became symptomatic (whichever occurs first). Isolation ends after 10 days if no symptoms have developed. If symptoms develop, isolation ends when at least 10 days have passed, **and** there is no fever for 24 hrs without medication, **and** symptoms are improving.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/isolation.html>



Metamora Grade School



The health department will ask for a list of contacts. Contact tracing goes back 48 hrs prior to a positive test result or becoming symptomatic (whichever occurred first). Once the health department has the contact information, they make every effort to call those individuals within 24 hours of receiving that information. Each contact will be instructed to quarantine for 14 days from the last date of exposure and to monitor symptoms.

For the health and safety of everyone, it is important that all individuals cooperate with the Woodford County Health Department in regards to contact tracing. We would like to minimize the number of people that are impacted by a possible quarantine. Full cooperation will assist in possibly not having to quarantine larger groups.

Staff and Parents: Please notify the school right away if you (staff) or your MGS student has tested positive for COVID-19 so we can take the necessary steps in order to help prevent further infection.

If a staff member tests positive:

The staff member should already be in isolation from the time the test was performed. The school nurse and administration will work together with the staff member to identify a list of contacts to provide to the health department. The health department will be in contact with those individuals to give instructions.

If a student tests positive:

The student should already be in isolation from the time the test was performed. The student's teacher, the school nurse, administration, and the parent/guardian will work together to identify a list of contacts to provide to the health department. The health department will be in contact with those individuals to give instructions.

FERPA permits educational institutions to disclose personal identifying information to public health authorities in order to prevent or control the spread of disease. The information shared will be minimal and released only when deemed necessary. For more information about privacy and COVID-19, visit:

https://studentprivacy.ed.gov/sites/default/files/resource_document/file/FERPA%20and%20Coronavirus%20Frequently%20Asked%20Questions.pdf



Metamora Grade School



Classroom/office/restroom closure for a positive COVID case:

In the event there is a positive COVID case in school, the affected area(s) will be closed for a minimum of 48 hours. CDC guidelines state the room should sit as long as possible, up to 24 hours, prior to being cleaned and disinfected. Once the room has been disinfected, it will sit again for 24 hours before being re-opened. Students in the affected classroom will remote learn while the classroom is closed for cleaning and disinfecting.

Possible exposure:

The school will notify parents/guardians of those students who share a classroom with a student or staff member who has tested positive for COVID-19. No personal identifying information will be released; a general statement notifying of the potential exposure will be given. The health department will be in contact with individuals identified as a contact to give instructions for quarantine. If you do not hear from the health department, it is safe to assume your child was not identified as a contact and they may continue to go to school as long as they remain asymptomatic.

CDC guidelines state anyone who might have been exposed to COVID-19 should quarantine. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/quarantine.html#:~:text=You%20should%20stay%20home%20for,after%20exposure%20to%20the%20virus.>

Quarantine - a 14 day quarantine is for those individuals who might have been exposed to COVID-19. The quarantine date begins with the most recent date of exposure and ends after 14 days **if** no symptoms have developed **and** no further exposures have taken place. If symptoms develop, testing is advised. If symptoms do not develop and you would like to be tested, you may do so at any time. Take into consideration that false negative test results can occur if the test was performed early after the exposure (typically within the first 5 days from exposure). A 2nd test can always be performed later if desired. Even if a negative test result is received prior to the 14 days, a person must remain in quarantine through day 14 as symptoms may take that long to appear.

The extent that quarantine affects other students and staff will be dependent on who meets the criteria for being a contact. It is possible that only a small group of students and/or staff may need to be quarantined.

Social distancing and wearing masks will greatly reduce the likelihood of needing to quarantine large groups of students and/or staff.



Metamora Grade School



Returning to school after illness/quarantine/isolation:

In order to return to school from a quarantine or isolation, a note from the Woodford County Health Department stating you have been released (from quarantine/isolation) will be **required**.

If a person had symptoms of COVID-19 and received a negative test result, he/she may return to school once fever/symptom free, without taking medication, for at least 24 hours as long as they are not on a contact list and under quarantine. A note from the primary care physician verifying that the symptoms were not related to COVID-19 will be **required unless** you can provide a copy of the negative test result. If a hard copy of the test result is not available, a 3-way conference call between the school nurse, the parent, and the testing site may be an option.

If a person had symptoms of COVID-19 and did not get tested, a note from the primary care physician, verifying that the symptoms were not related to COVID-19 will be **required** in order to return. The person must also be fever/symptom free, without taking medication, for at least 24 hours.

If a person had symptoms of COVID-19, did not get tested, and did not see a physician, IDPH states that person **must isolate for 10 days**, beginning with the date the symptoms first were noted. They may return to school after 10 days if they are fever/symptom free, without taking medication, for at least 24 hours.

You may also refer to the IDPH Decision Tree for Symptomatic Individuals; there is a link on our website.

If you have further questions, you may email or call the school at 309-367-2361 to speak to Tim Damery or Leslie Hodgen and we will do our best to assist you.

Superintendent - Marty Payne - mpayne@mgsredbirds.org

Principal - Tim Damery - tdamery@mgsredbirds.org

Dean of Students - Mark Dotterer - mdottere@mgsredbirds.org

School Nurse - Leslie Hodgen - lhodgen@mgsredbirds.org