

# Monongalia County Schools School Recovery and Guidance August 1, 2021

## VACCINATION INFORMATION

Health officials are administering the Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines in West Virginia to help protect against COVID-19.

Vaccines are important to:

- Protect population against virus spread, especially the most vulnerable.
- Reduce deaths and hospitalizations; and
- Maintain critical services and acute care.

Designated as a high priority by Governor Jim Justice, school employees received the vaccine ahead of most of the general population to assist in the return of in-person instruction. Monongalia County Schools in conjunction with a local pharmacy vaccinated 1588 employees January 2021 through June 2021.

There are three vaccines authorized in the U.S. and administered in West Virginia: Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson. Both Moderna and Pfizer require two rounds of shots while the Johnson & Johnson is a single dose.

It is not possible to get COVID-19 from the vaccine because it does not contain a live virus. Instead, it causes the body to produce antibodies against the virus.

Upon receiving the second dose, immunity usually occurs after 10 to 14 days. It is possible for an individual to be infected until full immunity occurs.

For complete vaccine information provided by the DHHR, visit <https://dhhr.wv.gov/COVID-19/Pages/Vaccine.aspx> or contact the COVID-19 Vaccine Info Line at 1-833-734-0965 with questions.

### ***Launching the #IGotVaxxedWV Campaign***

As a response to the declining rate of individuals receiving vaccinations statewide, the WVDE launched its #IGotVaxxedWV campaign to encourage students 12 and older to get their COVID-19 vaccine. The campaign includes a series of videos and social media graphics with testimonials from school personnel and students who share their reasons for getting vaccinated. The campaign will continue through fall 2021 to educate students about the benefits of getting vaccinated in hopes of returning to a typical school year with in-person instructions.

## **RECOVERY PROTOCOLS AND KEY MITIGATIONS**

In March 2021, in Monongalia County Schools, all pre-k through grade 12 students were given the option of returning to school five days each week.

Mitigation strategies effectively implemented are shown to decrease incidents of virus spread. Monongalia County Schools is following the mitigation strategies below relevant to the latest Governor's Executive Orders, CDC guidance, and county board of education requirements.

### ***Cleaning and Disinfecting***

- Monongalia County Schools is using COVID-19 killing materials and supply chains for cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and preventing spread of disease.
- Monongalia County Schools has developed COVID-19 protocols regarding cleaning and disinfecting to ensure consistency. This also ensures proper cleaning and disinfecting of high-touch surfaces on a regular basis.
- COVID-19 cleaning teams have been developed, with enhanced training for cleaning areas where positive COVID-19 persons have been at school and disinfection is needed.
- Monongalia County Schools provides adequate supplies to support healthy hygiene behaviors (e.g., paper towels, tissues, soap, and hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol) for safe use by staff and older children.
- Monongalia County Schools purchased individual objects for each student, when feasible, that normally would have been shared. Protocols were established for the disinfecting of these items.
- Monongalia County Schools ensures safe and correct use and storage of cleaning and disinfecting products.

## Hand Hygiene and Coughing/Sneezing Etiquette

- Teach and reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and/or the safe use of hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
  - Before
    - Eating or preparing food
    - Touching your face
  - After
    - Using the restroom
    - Coughing, sneezing, or blowing nose
    - Changing a diaper
    - Caring for someone sick
    - Touching animal
- Encourage staff and students to cough and sneeze into their elbows, or to cover with a tissue.
- Ensure that used tissues are thrown in the trash and hands are washed immediately with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or cleaned with hand sanitizer.

## Evaluate Large Gatherings Outside of Classrooms/Core Groups

- Monongalia County Schools collaborates with and takes direction from state and local officials including WVDE and Monongalia County Health Department regarding large gatherings outside of the classrooms. Examples: graduation protocols and sporting events.

## Face Coverings

- Monongalia County Schools will determine face coverings (mask) protocols based on current CDC and state and local health official recommendations.

## Social Distancing

- Monongalia County Schools will strive to keep students and teachers in small core groups as much as possible during the day.
- Monongalia County Schools will evaluate protocols for social distancing based on current CDC and state and local health official recommendations.

## Contact Tracing with Local Health Department

- Quarantine

- Monongalia County Schools will review class, bus, and cafeteria seating charts, and only quarantine students who were within six feet of an infected person as opposed to quarantining an entire class and sending students home unnecessarily.
- Students who are vaccinated for COVID-19 and are 14 days post their last vaccine, will not be quarantined unless they are exhibiting or begin to exhibit signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- Monongalia County Schools, School Health Team will work in conjunction with the Monongalia County Health Department on COVID-19 isolation and quarantine cases.

## QUARANTINE GUIDANCE

<p>Quarantine period can end after Day 10 without testing and if no symptoms have been identified during daily self-monitoring.</p> <p>Post-quarantine transmission risk: 1%-10%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Day 0*-10 quarantine for close contacts can end if no symptoms develop during daily self-monitoring without testing.</li> <li>● If an individual develops symptoms within the quarantine period, immediately isolate and contact <b>your School Nurse and/or</b> the local health department to report change in clinical status.</li> </ul> <p><small>*Duration of quarantine applies from the last date of exposure</small></p>
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### Monitoring and Handling of Presumptive, Suspected, and Confirmed Cases

Monongalia County Schools is required to:

- Educate staff, students, and their families about the signs and symptoms of COVID-19, when they should stay home, and when they can return to school.
- Establish a space for symptomatic individuals that will not be used for other purposes.
  - Immediately isolate symptomatic individuals and send them home to isolate/quarantine.
  - Ensure symptomatic students are isolated for a short period of time, in a non-threatening manner and under the visual supervision of a staff member who is socially distanced to the greatest extent possible ~~we~~ wearing appropriate PPE.

Monongalia County Schools as well as the CDC feel that students benefit from in-person learning, and safely returning to in-person instruction in the fall 2021 is a priority.

Monongalia County Schools has worked diligently to prepare protocols and provide supplies, both educational and safety related to ensure their schools, students, and employees stay safe during these unprecedented times of COVID-19 while still providing an optimal learning environment.

Throughout the 2021-2022 school year Monongalia County Schools will continue to provide this same support to ensure students are offered exemplary educational opportunities as we continue to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic.