

CARING FOR EACH + EVERYONE

An important update.



Dear MSD Community,

Happy Friday! We are concluding some very busy weeks on campus that included wrapping up a few more construction projects, New Staff Training, a Leadership Retreat, office moving, safety and security trainings, faculty and team meetings, planning and schedule making, and the BIG work of setting up our beautiful classrooms. I feel like I blinked, and the summer is over.

In this update:

- Our MSD COVID-19 Guidebook link
- Important updates to our COVID-19 policies since my last email
- Community survey results
- A short Q + A
- What we need from you

In my last email (sent August 5) I promised an updated **COVID-19 Guidebook** and [here it is](#). A reminder to please always keep in mind that guidelines and information are constantly changing, so our own MSD guidance will too. This is a living document that will be updated as new information is learned, and date stamped with the current version. A perfect example of this dynamic process is a change to mask-wearing since my last email.

Important Updates:

The Denver Department of Public Health and Environment issued an order effective August 18, 2021 that all individuals aged two and older must wear a mask indoors, with proper coverage of the nose and mouth, in schools regardless of vaccination status. The details of the public order can be viewed [here](#).

MSD's mask requirements are:

- Indoors: Masks are required indoors for all students (Toddler – Middle School) and staff regardless of vaccination status.
 - If eating or drinking occurs inside, masks may be removed temporarily and distancing of 6 feet must be maintained. Lunch and snacks will be eaten in classroom groups to limit exposure risk when masks are removed for eating.
 - No masks are worn during napping. To limit exposure risk, naps take place with the classroom group and distancing is maintained between nap mats.
- Outdoors: Masks are optional for all individuals regardless of vaccination status. Please communicate with your child’s teachers if you prefer your child remain masked outdoors so we can support you.

Other changes that have been made by the MSD COVID-19 Task Force since my last email that I want to quickly highlight:

Daily Health Screenings*: We *will* require a short, daily health screening, including a temperature check, per student to be submitted by you before arriving to campus via SchoolPass. **It is your responsibility to do this before entering carline or approaching the Toddler gate.** You will need to show the green checkmark on your phone before your child enters campus. If your child is flagged, please stay home until symptom-free for at least 24 hours without medications.

Staff Testing: All staff will test regularly for COVID-19, regardless of symptoms or vaccination status. We encourage your family to do the same! MSD partnered with [COVIDCheck Colorado](#) last year for testing for staff and families and will continue to do so this year for free COVID-19 PCR testing.

Survey Results & Questions:

Thank you for filling out the recent community survey that was shared in my last email. I am happy to report that we had more than 125 responses. Of those that responded, 86% of you are feeling very to mostly comfortable about our protocols and return to school plans. The remaining responses were of mixed feelings, with many of you stating your unease (in the comments) about COVID-19 cases continuing to rise, which we completely understand. Regarding the question of plans to vaccinate your students, almost 90% of you shared that you have plans (or will likely plan) to do so when your children are eligible. This will be helpful data for the COVID-19 Task Force to use as we continue to calibrate our MSD protocols based on our own community data.

There were a few write-in questions that came up multiple times in the survey that I think everyone would benefit from hearing the answers to:

Why can't I come onto campus to drop my child off at the door?

The vast majority of our students are under 12 years old and are currently ineligible for a COVID-19 vaccine. Allowing parents/caregivers onto campus when children are present – even outdoors and masked – increases the risk of exposure to our students and it's a risk we don't have to take with our amazing carline and Toddler gate processes. My hope is this policy, like all others, can be revisited and changed as safety permits. We like having you all around!

Can MSD mandate that all parents and caregivers receive COVID-19 vaccines?

No. While we cannot mandate vaccines for the families and caregivers of our students' families, 90% of the parents who responded to our survey did indicate that they are fully vaccinated.

Can MSD mandate vaccines for students (when eligible)?

At this point, we just don't know. We will follow federal, state and local guidance on this when the majority of MSD students are vaccine eligible.

Will MSD share positive results with the community?

Yes. Like last year, classrooms will be notified immediately in the event of a positive case or possible exposure at school. If there is a COVID-19 case, the following communications protocol will be in place:

- Notifications of confirmed COVID-19 cases will be made first to families of students in that affected classroom, if warranted by exposure.
- The number of confirmed cases currently on campus will be shared on both Blackbaud and Virtual Campus by program level.

One last note, that I hope alleviates some anxiety about our return to school and that we are all proud of: MSD is following all nine of the CDC's [prevention strategies](#) for schools.

What we need from you:

As I have said since this pandemic began, our priority is to keep our students safe, and to keep our classrooms open for in-person learning. Please be a great MSD community member and keep your families' COVID-19 exposure and thus, all of our risks low by following all MSD, CDC, and Denver guidelines. Our extensive good planning and efforts around keeping our community safe will only work if we are each 100% committed to each other and uphold the community expectations.

Please continue to email any questions or concerns to the [MSD COVID-19 Task Force](#) and reference our Guiding Principles for our decision-making process and other important information as needed in the [MSD COVID-19 Guidebook](#).

I look forward to seeing you in the coming days for your Family Visits**! You will be receiving a very full and exciting MSD school year calendar soon, including our official 2021-2022 kickoff with Back to School Night on September 9. We'll also have some dates for virtual community Town Halls, which we'll continue this year to keep us all informed and connected throughout the year as we continue to navigate our MSD boat together. We don't have calm waters, yet.

As always, please be in touch with any questions, concerns, or insights.

Onward.



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****Important to Know about SchoolPass:*** MSD uses the SchoolPass system for daily health checks as well as arrival and dismissals. SchoolPass released a new app for the 2021-22 school year that all returning families will need to download after deleting the old app from their mobile devices. The current version is 2.0 or higher. New families will receive an invitation to join SchoolPass shortly, if you haven't already.

*****Family Visits:*** if you haven't already, please sign up via your [Blackbaud account](#). Under your child's profile, select the assigned classroom at the bottom of the page. Family visits, orientation schedules, and school supply lists are on the right.