



# Mountain Lakes School District

## COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions



- ***Who is considered a close contact?***

The CDC defines a close contact as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for at least 15 minutes within a 24-hour period starting from 2 days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic cases, 2 days prior to a positive COVID test).

- ***Will the six feet of distancing between student desks be maintained throughout the district?***

Six feet of distance will be maintained when practical, but in most cases, we will be able to reduce spacing and therefore increase in-person attendance in accordance with new CDC guidelines that allow for 3 feet of distance. We will seek to maintain as much distance as possible.

- ***Now that students will be seated in closer proximity in some classes, will an entire classroom need to quarantine if a student tests positive?***

No. We will continue to adhere to the close contact guidelines provided by the CDC. Only those students meeting the close contact guidelines listed above will be required to quarantine.

- ***Will the entire school athletic team have to quarantine once a team member is deemed a close contact of a positive case that traces back to a source outside of the team?***

Individuals cannot be “a close contact of a close contact.” Only those who are classified as a close contact will have to quarantine.

- ***What will happen if a member of a school athletic team tests positive for COVID? Will the entire team have to quarantine?***

Due to the multiple variables related to athletic practices and games, we are unable to provide a one-size-fits-all response. However, the Department of Health will conduct contact tracing, with our support, to determine if any members of the athletic team would need to quarantine.

- ***Will students traveling for Spring Break still be required to quarantine?***

A student who has traveled outside of the New Jersey/New York/Connecticut/Delaware/Pennsylvania area for more than 24 hours will be required to observe the quarantine. As per the state of New Jersey, there are two quarantine options:

- ***No Test Option:*** Stay home for 10 days. If you stay symptom-free for 10 days, quarantine ends.
- ***Test Option:*** Stay home for 7 days. Get tested at Day 5, 6, or 7. Stay home while awaiting results. If the test is negative and you stay symptom free, quarantine ends.

- ***Will students who have already tested positive for COVID-19 within the last three months still be required to quarantine if they are in close contact with a student who has tested positive or have traveled for Spring Break?***

Students who can provide proper medical documentation of a positive COVID-19 test within 90 days of close contact will not be required to quarantine.

- ***Does my child have to quarantine if they are fully vaccinated?***

Individuals who are fully vaccinated (14 days post final vaccination dose) do not have to quarantine when EXPOSED to Covid. However, this exemption is not applicable to the travel quarantine. Fully vaccinated individuals still need to quarantine when related to travel.

- ***What effort has the school district made to support the faculty and staff's ability to be vaccinated?***

Atlantic Health System has agreed to partner with the Mountain Lakes School District to get each of us vaccinated in a timely manner (this includes not only teachers, but all school staff members). The superintendent sent messages directly to all district employees with links to the Atlantic Health System Portal to register for vaccination appointments. Health information is protected. However, anecdotally, we know that many teachers have been able to receive at least the first dose and are scheduled for the second. Teachers have responded very positively. A number of teachers have already received both doses.

- ***What can we do to assist in keeping our students, staff, and families healthy?***

We are committed to protecting the health of each student, family, and staff member. This is a shared responsibility. The school district encourages families to have conversations with children about obeying CDC guidelines away from school property. As always, we continue to encourage parents and students to continue following these guidelines:

- Notifying your school nurse or school administrator if your child tests positive for COVID-19;
- Washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds;
- Covering coughs and sneezes;
- Limiting close contact with people who are sick;
- Not sharing food, drinks and utensils;
- Practicing social distancing;
- Wearing a face mask while in school;
- Monitoring your health symptoms;
- Staying home if you have COVID-19 symptoms, have been diagnosed with COVID-19, are waiting for test results, or have been exposed to someone (e.g. immediate family member) with symptoms or a confirmed or suspected case.