METHACTON SCHOOL DISTRICT

Health and Safety Plan Update

Special Meeting – August 10, 2021

Summary of Proposed Health and Safety Plan Changes

- Change from optional masking to universal required masking indoors K-12

- Change from standard lunch configuration to 6' modified configuration (same as last year)

Rationale for Revisions

- Timeline of Events

- Medical Expert Guidance/Recommendations

- Delta Variant

- Data

- Montgomery County Office of Public Health requirements

- Providing Optimal In Person Instruction

Timeline

- July 22, 2021   Administration Proposes Health and Safety Plan with optional masking

- July 27, 2021   3PM Update from CDC on masking recommendations – For all Students/Staff/Visitors in Schools

- July 27, 2021   7PM Methacton School Board approves Health and Safety Plan with optional masking

- July 29, 2021   MCOPH updates recommendations consistent with CDC

"In alignment with CDC, MCOPH recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to schools, regardless of vaccination status or school district level of community transmission."

Medical Expert Guidance/Recommendations

- The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- The Pennsylvania Department of Health (PaDoH)

- The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE)

- The Montgomery Office of Public Health (MCOPH)

Delta Variant Summary

- Delta is causing some "vaccine breakthrough infections," meaning infections in fully vaccinated people, than other strains have.

- Delta spreads more than twice as easily from one person to another, compared with earlier strains.

- Delta has most recently surged to become the predominant variant –from 1% in May to over 80% of cases in July.

- People infected with Delta have higher viral loads—meaning more virus in their body— than with previous variants.

SOURCE: CDC *(July 27, 2021)*

Data

	6/17/2021	7/1/2021	7/29/2021	CURRENT LEVEL
District Positivity Rate	0.85%	0.30%	2.46%	LOW
District Incidence Rate	2.72	24.46	13.59	MODERATE

	8/5/2021	CURRENT LEVEL
County Positivity Rate	4.20%	LOW
County Incidence Rate	55.7	MODERATE

Level of Community Transmission in the County	Incidence Rate per 100,000 Residents (Most Recent 7 Days)	AND/OR	PCR Percent Positivity (Most Recent 7 Days)
Low	<10	AND	<5%
Moderate	10 to <100	OR	5% to <10%
Substantial	≥100	OR	≥10%

Pennsylvania (August 5, 2021)

Incidence rate per 100,000 residents

Increased from a rate of 33.1 per 100,000 residents in the previous seven days to 55.1 per 100,000 residents in the most recent seven days.

33.1 Previous 7 days   55.1 Most recent 7 days

PCR testing positivity rate

Increased from a PCR testing positivity rate of 3.9 percent during the previous seven days to 5.4 percent over the most recent seven days.

3.9% Previous 7 days   5.4% Most recent 7 days

Montgomery County Office of Public Health requirements

Contact Tracing/Isolation/Quarantine Protocols

- Contact Tracing, Isolation and Quarantine protocols are requirements outlined under MCOPH Code.

- Close Contact Exemption to the required protocol allows for 3' or greater with masking – no need to quarantine/isolate

  – *Example - If both the COVID19 positive student and an unvaccinated student who is exposed were both wearing masks and practicing physical distancing of at least 3 ft. or more, the exposed student <u>WILL NOT </u>be identified as a close contact and <u>WILL NOT </u>need to quarantine.*

Rationale for Revisions

- In an effort to maintain the continuity of instruction with a focus on providing in person programming

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For adults/students/visitors

Physical distancing of at least 3 ft. or more

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Universal Masking

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Provides for the following:

- Least disruption for student and staff due to close contact quarantine requirements (between 7-10 days at a clip)
  - *Teachers will send work home via the traditional method or use Google Classroom to keep quarantined students current. We will not be live streaming students into the classroom.*

- Provides for the most consistent in person education program/operation of schools