

Superintendent's Update – August 18, 2021

Montville Public Schools



Safe Return to In-Person Instruction

At last night's Board of Education meeting, we finalized our plans for your students' return and are very eager to welcome them back! Our buildings have been cleaned, maintenance projects and capital improvements are wrapping up, hiring is winding down, and teachers are perfecting their plans.

Most importantly, schools will open for in-person learning for all students five days a week. Our first two days, Aug. 30 and Aug. 31, will be half days; full days of school begin on Sept. 1st. Kindergarten and pK students will receive modified plans for their first day. Students will receive class assignments from their schools.

We take ensuring the health and safety of our school community very seriously, and therefore we have developed mitigation strategies which will be in place given the recent increase in COVID-19 cases in CT. These plans are outlined below and will be revised as we receive updated guidance from the state and local health district.



Transportation

In order to space students on buses, we are asking parents to transport their students to school again this fall whenever possible. If you are able to transport your student to and from school, it would be very helpful.

Bus routes are [posted on our website](#), and letters with information about bus routes have been sent out. If you have any changes to the pick-up or drop-off locations, or if you will provide your own transportation at the start of the school year, please return the form which is included in this mailing or email ktetreault@montvilleschools.org

Currently there is a CDC order requiring masks on public transportation, and therefore masks must be worn on school buses. We ask that students come to bus stops wearing masks. Bus drivers will provide masks for students who forget to bring a mask. Students will not be able to ride any bus other than the one they are assigned.



Quarantine, Isolation, and Remote Learning

Quarantining:

When an unvaccinated student is a close contact of a person who has tested positive, they must quarantine for 7 days with a negative PCR test on day 5 or later. Students who are wearing masks correctly in the classroom are considered close contacts if they are closer than three feet from a positive case for a cumulative 15 minutes over the course of the day. Unmasked students or students who are not wearing their masks correctly are considered close contacts if they are closer than 6 feet from a positive case. Outside of the classroom, any unvaccinated person within 6 feet of a close contact (masked or unmasked) must quarantine.

Vaccinated people do not need to quarantine when they are close contacts as long as they remain asymptomatic.

Staying Home When Sick:

Any person, vaccinated or unvaccinated, experiencing a symptom of COVID-19 must stay home and call the school nurse to discuss next steps. Students should [self-monitor for symptoms](#) every morning before coming to school.

Your school nurse will help you follow our [guidance regarding COVID-19 scenarios](#) to determine next steps if your student is a close contact or symptomatic.

Remote Learning for Isolation or Quarantine:

Students who are isolated or quarantined due to COVID-19 will be provided with the opportunity to participate in asynchronous remote learning experiences. They will be counted as present if they complete more than 50% of the work assigned.



Vaccination Clinic

Our next vaccination clinic will be held on August 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Montville High School Cafeteria.

Vaccinations are available for all students, community members, and staff who are at least 12 years old. Appointments are not necessary; vaccines will be given on a walk-in basis.



Mask-Wearing

We are currently following Governor Lamont's [Executive Order 13A](#). That order was dated August 5th and is in place through Sept. 30th. It is linked to a [list of conditions and environments which require universal masking](#) which includes public schools. The DPH Commissioner further clarified the order requiring universal masking in schools in the [DPH Order](#) issued on August 7th.

The Board will review its [mask-wearing policy](#) as appropriate based on guidance from the state, DPH, Uncas Health District, our medical advisor, and our attorney and listening to our community members.

If your student is medically exempt from wearing a mask, please have your physician complete the [mask exemption form](#).



Meals

Meals will be provided again next year to all students at no cost. Elementary students will bring breakfast home each day to eat before school the following morning.

Students will be seated about 6 feet apart in cafeterias and elementary students will be cohorted by grade level.

Families who are eligible for Free or Reduced Priced Meals MUST still complete the [Free and Reduced lunch paperwork](#) as this is essential for district and family eligibility for other funding.



COVID-19 Protocols

This year, as we have learned more about COVID-19 transmission, some procedures have been relaxed. We will allow two-way traffic in hallways, students can use shared materials, and classrooms and buses will be cleaned once a day. In order to make more room in the hallways during passing time, Tyl and MHS lockers will remain closed. We will continue to ensure adequate ventilation in all indoor spaces.

Building-based COVID-19 protocols such as pick-up and drop-off procedures will be communicated by school principals.



MPS Is Currently Hiring!

We still have several full and part-time jobs available. If you are looking for a part-time job, we have vacancies for paraprofessionals, monitors, and other support staff.

You can access information about vacant positions and apply using our [online application process](#)



Visitors to Schools

Based upon advice from DPH, we will limit visitors to schools during the school day. At this time we do hope to be able to invite parents into the schools for evening events such as parent conferences and back-to-school nights. We will continue to offer the option of Zoom online meetings to parents.

We will allow spectators to outdoor events and they can attend indoor events if masked and socially distanced.



Documentation of Vaccination

Staff and students are required to submit a copy of their vaccination cards to the school nurse in order to be exempt from quarantine. This information will be kept confidential but when we conduct contact tracing, if we do not have a vaccination card on file, we will require close contacts to quarantine.

You can email a copy (or photo) of your student's vaccination card to the school nurse or bring your card to your school and we will make a copy for you.

Vaccination status is confidential, please do not ask staff members if they have been vaccinated.



Device Distribution

Devices will be distributed to all students for use in school and at home during the first week of school. In order to receive a device, please review the information and complete the electronic forms on our website.

Please click this [link](#) for our handbook, Insurance Protection Plan and the Student Acceptable Use Policy necessary for use of 1:1 Technology for 2021-2022.



Fall Sports

High School Fall Sports Have Begun!

Spectators will be permitted but will need to wear masks and distance inside the school.

Athletes who are close contacts of person who tests positive for COVID-19 are required to quarantine for 10 days and submit a negative PCR test on day 7 or later.

Boys Soccer- Start date is August 26th; 3:00-5:00.
Parent meeting August 23rd at 6:00 on bleachers

Girls Soccer- Start date is August 26th; 3:00-5:00
Parent meeting at 5:15 on bleachers

MHS Cross Country- Start date is August 26th; 3:00-5:00
Parent meeting is on August 23rd at 6:00 on bleachers

Volleyball- Start date is August 26th; 3:00-5:30
Parent meeting is August 30th at 6:00 on the turf field

Cheerleading- Start date is August 12th; 5:00-7:00
Parent meeting is August 20th at 6:00 on the turf field

TYL Cross Country- Start date is September 7th after school; Parent meeting will be determined at a later date

All student-athletes must be registered and approved on FamilyID before they can practice.

In order to be eligible the student must:

1. [Register on FamilyID](#)
2. Have a valid physical on file with the MHS/ TYL school nurse
3. Have earned a minimum of four credits from the 20-21 school year (MHS)



**Enjoy the last weeks of
your summer!**