



Montgomery Area School District

120 Penn Street

Montgomery, PA. 17752

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Phased School Reopening



Montgomery Area School District families and students have been at the heart of our decision-making during these uncertain times. The guidance contained herein is based on medical and public health expertise in consultation with the needs and realities of school operations. While health and safety considerations are paramount, guidance also is rooted in our understanding and belief that social interaction and in-person instruction is essential to our students' emotional well-being, as well as their educational growth and advancement.

It is vital that we all commit to adhering to these criteria, and the guidelines set-forth by Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Our plan for the reopening of MASD is guided by two core principles:

Health and Safety: The health and safety of our students, faculty, staff, and entire Montgomery community is the highest priority in every decision we make.

Education: We are committed to ensuring that the teaching and learning of our students and faculty will continue at the highest levels of excellence. Every decision we make must be in service to this commitment.

This is a living document that will continue to evolve and will be updated as necessary.

Table of Contents

Message from the Superintendent	3
Survey Results.....	5
Learning Options for Your Child.....	6
Behavioral Health Services	8
COVID-19 Symptoms.....	9
Protecting Yourself and Others - Know the Facts.....	10
School Symptom Screening Tool.....	11
Essential MASD School Practices.....	12
Health and Safety Plan Summary.....	13
What if There is a Confirmed Case in School?.....	16
Resocialization of Sports Summary.....	17
2020-2021 Pandemic Academic Enrollment Form.....	18



Message from the Superintendent

Dear Montgomery Community:

I want to thank you for your support and endurance during the COVID-19 pandemic. Together we are working to reopen our schools while maintaining a safe and healthy environment, to the greatest extent possible, based on guidelines established by the Center for Disease Control, Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the community survey responses. Although the State guidance seems to be continually changing, we have presented a plan for instruction that we hope provides our families with the ability to choose the best academic option that meets their circumstances and comfort level while also providing some type of stability with our students' education. We have outlined those educational options within this document. If circumstances change requiring us to close again, we will immediately switch to full remote instruction as outlined in our Continuity of Education Plan posted on our school website.

We are requiring face coverings for all individuals on school district property and within school district buildings in response to our Governor's order. Face coverings and hand washing have been deemed the most effective defense against the spread of COVID-19. We are including in a mailing to all of our families, face coverings for all students within the household, thermometer to measure temperatures, and an enrollment form to return to the district in the self-addressed stamped envelope. It is important that parents work with us to help stop the spread of COVID-19 at school. Talking with your student about the importance of wearing the face covering to protect them and to protect their classmates and teachers is very important. Have your students begin wearing the face covering immediately to build a tolerance for the covering for longer periods of time during the school day. This face covering will be required at the bus stop, as well as while riding the bus and at school. We are asking parents, if they are able, to transport their child to and from school to reduce the numbers of students on the school busses at one time. If you are able to transport your child, please indicate that willingness on the enrollment form. The thermometer provided is for parents/caregivers to take students' temperatures prior to sending them to school. Should a student exhibit a temperature of 100.4 degrees and/or symptoms outlined in our Phased School Reopening plan, they **MUST STAY HOME**. We are relying on our families to provide the first assessment of their children prior to transporting to school.

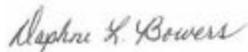
Phased School Reopening / Health & Safety Plan

Students' temperatures will be checked again upon the arrival to school and throughout the school day. Mrs. Heather Walton, School Nurse, has been charged with the role of Pandemic Coordinator and will be continually monitoring the health and wellness of our students and staff as well as communicating guidance from the Department of Health to our staff and families.

Our partnership with parents is critical to our success in keeping school open. Unfortunately during the 2020-2021 school year, that partnership will be through remote communication as we will not be allowing visitors beyond the school offices, which includes parents. We plan to increase our online communications with the community in order to keep everyone up to date on the ever changing circumstances with which the pandemic has presented us.

Thank you for your trust in us in our effort to keep our children healthy and safe. This document is meant to be a summary of our formal Health and Safety plan mandatory for the return of school. The full plan can be found on our District website. Please return the enclosed enrollment form no later than August 7, 2020.

Sincerely,



Daphne L. Bowers
Superintendent

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

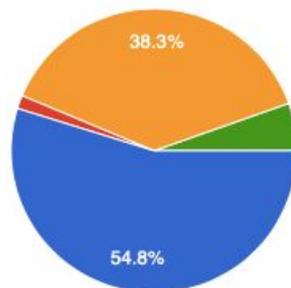
Survey Results

Thank you to the 332 families who responded to the survey! We are very fortunate to have such an involved and supportive community.

According to the questions we asked and comments you submitted, we gained the following insights:

I am considering the following regarding sending my child back to school.

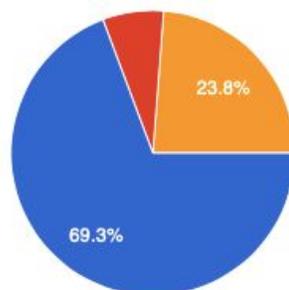
332 responses



- My child will return to school when it reopens.
- I will not return my child to school when it reopens (homeschooling, non-district cyber, etc.).
- I have not decided yet. The decision will depend on what the plan to reopen looks like.
- Not applicable

I would prefer to see the following model of instructional delivery when school reopens.

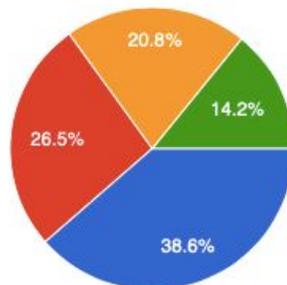
332 responses



- Traditional model (Students attend school Monday-Friday following normal hours.)
- Cyber model (Students do not attend school in person, but rather work online from home.)
- Blended model (Students take classes both in person at school and online.)

My child will ride the school bus when school reopens.

332 responses



- Yes
- No. My child walks to school
- No. I will transport my child to school.
- Unsure

Learning Options for Your Child

Based on the information you provided in the parent survey, we feel it is best to offer options for your children's learning this fall. Final determinations will be made taking into account state, federal, and CDC guidelines. Until such time, the Montgomery Area School District is planning for these options so we are prepared to meet the needs of our students within prescribed parameters. At the end of this document, parents must complete the attached form and return to the district in the self-addressed stamped envelope indicating your child's preferred enrollment status for the 2020-2021 school year of their intention regarding their child's instruction.



Traditional Model

This model will enable students to attend school Monday-Friday. Our schools will follow the current 2020-2021 school calendar with a school day that begins at 8:35AM and concludes at 3:00PM. PreK will continue with their normal hours, 9:00AM-2:00PM.

Hybrid Learning Model

This model will enable students to take their classes both in person at school as well as online from home. Instruction will continue at home through access to scheduled courses using the Schoology platform. The following weekly schedule will be utilized for families choosing this option:



Grades PreK-6 - Students will report to school on an alternating A/B schedule.

Grades 7 and 8 - Students will report to school on an alternating A/B schedule.

Grades 9 and 11 - Wednesday, Thursday, Friday (in school)
Monday, Tuesday (at home)

Grades 10 and 12 - Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday (in school)
Thursday, Friday (at home)

Should hybrid learning be required of all students, the schedule for grades 9-12 will be as follows:

Grades 9 - 12 - Students will report to school on an alternating A/B schedule (Grades 9/11 - A, Grades 10/12 - B).

Attendance for remote days will be taken based on completion of assigned tasks. Grades will be monitored and students not making appropriate progress will be required to return to school under the traditional model.



Remote Instruction

This model will enable students to learn online. The remote instruction option offers curriculum with support from teachers via students' chromebooks. Instruction will take place completely at home. Attendance for remote instructional days will be taken based on the completion of assigned tasks.



Private Cyber Charter School

In this model, students will not remain a Montgomery student and will be required to withdraw. Students will not be eligible to receive a Montgomery diploma.



Homeschooling

Parent-created curriculum and guided instruction as per Pennsylvania homeschool guidelines. ([Homeschool Guidelines from PDE](#))

Movement to blended/online models can take place at any time. Return to the traditional model from cyber or blended will only be considered when academically necessary or at the end of the marking period.

Social/Emotional Health Services

The goal of behavioral health services is to provide support to students and staff with established routines and expectations, while also reassuring students of their physical and emotional safety. The school counselors, school psychologist, and school social worker will be prepared and available to offer a continuum of services to meet more intensive needs. Additionally, outside agencies such as Community Services Group (CSG) and Diversified Treatment Alternatives (DTA) provide behavioral and mental health services to the students of the district.

School Pandemic Recovery Plan

1	Prevent Physical and Psychological Injury - Promote healthy behaviors and minimize exposure to potentially traumatizing media.
2	Reaffirm and Ensure Physical Safety - Re-educate students on school procedures on physical safety actions and the rationale behind these actions.
3	Evaluate Psychological Trauma - Analyze student data. Who was at-risk before the pandemic? Who may be at risk due to loss or poverty? Who may be at increased risk for anxiety, depression, or other mental health conditions?
4	Provide Interventions and Respond to Psychological Needs - Reestablish social support. Provide psychological education. Provide psychological interventions.
5	Examine the Effectiveness of the Mental Health Response - Document actions and reflections to improve future crisis response and intervention.

We will include the following activities, programs, initiatives, and supports for all students:

- School-Wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports
- Social-Emotional Learning Instruction and Support
- Youth Mental Health First Aid/QPR Training for Staff
- Trauma Resilient School and Classroom Practices
 1. Maintain normal routines as much as possible.
 2. Ensure safety.
 3. Consistent response to behavioral concerns.

COVID-19 Symptoms

Make sure you know the symptoms of COVID-19. If you or your child has any of these symptoms, stay home. If anyone comes down with symptoms while at school, they will be sent home immediately. MASD will follow our phased school reopening plan for handling cases of COVID-19.

Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- **Fever.** Anyone with a temperature 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher should not be at work or school.
- **Chills.** Including repeated shaking with chills.
- **Muscle pain or body aches.**
- **Headache or confusion.**
- **Difficulty staying awake or waking up.**
- **Cough.**
- **Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.** May have bluish lips or face.
- **Congestion or runny nose.**
- **Sore throat.**
- **New loss of taste or smell.**
- **Nausea or vomiting.**
- **Diarrhea.**

Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Not everyone who has COVID-19 will have bad symptoms. Some may only have mild symptoms or show no signs of being sick. The virus spreads through the natural moisture (respiratory droplets) we breathe out when we talk, cough, or sneeze. This list does not include all possible symptoms. The CDC will continue to update this list as more is learned about COVID-19.

Protecting Yourself and Others - Know the Facts: (CDC)

The virus is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person.

- Between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet for > 15 minutes).
- Through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes or talks.
- These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of people who are nearby or possibly be inhaled into the lungs.
- Some recent studies have suggested that COVID-19 may be spread by people who are not showing symptoms.

Individuals with certain conditions may have a higher risk for COVID-19 infection. These conditions include:

- Age 65 years and older
- Asthma (moderate to severe)
- Chronic lung disease
- Diabetes
- Serious heart condition
- Chronic kidney disease being treated with dialysis
- Severe obesity
- Immunocompromised
- Pregnancy (while pregnant people seem to have the same risk as adults who are not pregnant, pregnancy can create changes that may increase the risk of some infections)

School Symptom Screening Tool

Complete Daily Prior to School/Work*

Are you/is the student taking any medication to treat or reduce a fever such as Ibuprofen (i.e. Advil, Motrin) or Acetaminophen (Tylenol)?

Are you/is the student experiencing any of the following?

Group A 1 or more symptoms	Group B 2 or more symptoms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Fever (100.4 or higher) ➤ Cough ➤ Shortness of breath ➤ Difficulty breathing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sore throat ➤ Runny nose/congestion ➤ Chills ➤ New lack of smell or taste ➤ Muscle pain ➤ Nausea or Vomiting ➤ Headache ➤ Diarrhea

Stay home if, you or the student:

- Have one or more symptoms in Group A OR
- Have two or more symptoms in Group B OR
- Are taking fever reducing medication.

**May be utilized as a screening tool for both at home and on-site screening practices.*

Essential MASD School Practices

	<p>Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.</p> <p>Hand sanitizer stations are located throughout the school. It is also expected that each student, faculty member and staff have their own supply of hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. When sanitizing, it is important to cover all surfaces of the hands and rub them together until they feel dry.</p> <p>Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.</p>
	<p>Because people can spread the virus before they know they are sick, it is important to stay away from others whenever possible, even if an individual is not experiencing symptoms. Social distancing is especially important for people who are at higher risk. Individuals on the school campus should follow these social distancing practices whenever possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people • Do not gather in groups • Stay out of crowded places and avoid mass gatherings
	<p>COVID-19 could be spread to others even by individuals who do not feel sick. Therefore, face coverings (disposable masks or cloth face coverings) must be worn by all individuals on the school campus at all times in public settings (e.g., on the school bus, in hallways, stairwells, elevators, classrooms, restrooms, etc.). Appropriate use of face coverings is important in minimizing risks to the wearers and those around them.</p>

Health and Safety Plan

The health and safety plan focuses on key strategies, policies and protocols for a safe return to school. While the health and safety plan will be maintained at the fullest extent possible, as long as there are cases of COVID-19 in the community, there are no strategies that can completely eliminate transmission risk within a school population. The goal is to keep transmission as low as possible to safely continue school activities. Below are highlights of the phased school reopening plan.

<p>Cleaning, Sanitizing, Disinfecting and Ventilation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students and staff will be educated on proper handwashing techniques. Handwashing shall occur frequently throughout the day. ● Hand sanitizer shall be provided throughout the school building. Students are encouraged to bring their own personal hand sanitizer to school. ● All high touch surfaces shall be disinfected daily using EPA approved sanitation products. Surfaces including but not limited to railings, doors, door handles, light switches, and student desks. ● Communal drinking fountains have been removed. Water filling stations have been added and will be disinfected at least two times a day using EPA approved sanitization products. ● All classrooms shall be disinfected daily using EPA approved electrostatic sprayers. ● Buses will be disinfected after each run using EPA approved electrostatic sprayers. ● MERV 8 filters have been placed in the HVAC system.
<p>Social Distancing and Other Safety Protocols</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Students and staff shall be required to wear a face covering at all times during the school day, following the guidance provided by the Governor of the Commonwealth. ● Plexiglass dividers are in place at various locations throughout the school. ● The sharing of student materials will be limited.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No visitors shall be permitted in the building. ● Parents/Guardians will be permitted in the office to drop off student materials or escort their child to or from the building. Face coverings must be worn at all times in school. All persons shall use hand sanitizer as they enter the building. ● Classroom configurations, hallway traffic patterns, bus transportation will be altered for maximum social distancing to the greatest extent possible. ● Lunch policies and procedures have changed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Additional lunch periods have been created to minimize the number of students in the cafeteria at a given time. ○ Grab & Go style breakfast and lunches. ○ Increased frequency of sanitization practices. ○ Students are encouraged to bring lunches in disposable containers when bringing a lunch from home. ● IEP/504 meetings will be held virtually via Zoom ● No field trips or extracurricular travel (other than PIAA sanctioned and scheduled sports)
<p>Monitoring of Students and Staff Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Temperature checks and symptom screening will be done by all parents/guardians at home each morning before the school day. No students with positive symptoms will be sent on a bus or brought to school. ● All district staff shall be screened for symptoms. ● Temperature checks shall be conducted upon arrival at school and throughout the day. Any person displaying any sign or symptom of COVID-19 and/or a fever greater than 100.4 degrees must stay home until cleared by a medical professional.

Phased School Reopening / Health & Safety Plan

Other Considerations for Students and Staff

- Flexible options for instruction (traditional, blended, remote, cyber)
- Staff and students will be provided with masks.
- LPN hired to support School Nurse/ Pandemic Coordinator and with contact tracing.
- An isolation/quarantine room has been designated within the school.
- Any staff or student having traveled, or planning to travel, to an area where there are high amounts of COVID-19 cases, will be required to stay at home for 14 days upon their return to Pennsylvania.

Full plan is available on the district website.

What If There Is A Confirmed Case In School?

If a confirmed case of COVID-19 should occur, we will follow all of the directives and protocols established by the Department of Health. At the current time, we are awaiting additional guidance, however, below are the protocols we have created (subject to change depending on decisions made by the Department of Health and/or Department of Education).

Protocols:

- The Department of Health will be notified.
- The MASD Pandemic Coordinator will initiate contact tracing under the supervision of the PA Department of Health.
- Students, staff, and any close contacts identified will be on home quarantine for 14-days and immediately pivot to remote instruction.
- The district may be closed for cleaning purposes:
 - Close off areas used by the person who is sick.
 - Clean and disinfect all areas used by the person who is sick, such as offices, bathrooms, and common areas.
 - If it has been greater than 7-days since a positive individual was in the building, additional cleaning and disinfecting will not be needed. Continue regular cleaning/disinfecting routines.



Resocialization of Sports Summary

Student-athletes have been engaged in the resocialization of sports plan which began on June 22, 2020. The plan was implemented for all sports and consisted of conditioning and skill development drills in small groups. Currently, athletes are engaged in limited contact conditioning and drills and this will continue through the remainder of the out-of-season period designated by the PIAA. In-season activities will begin on August 10th with heat acclimation for football and all other sports will begin on August 17th. Due to COVID-19 the PA Department of Health, CDC, UPMC, and PIAA have mandated procedures and guidelines that each individual school district must follow. The Athletic Pandemic Coordinator has been in direct contact with the district's coaches, and an Athletic Health and Safety Plan has been developed.

What changes should I expect in athletics?

- As per PIAA NO SPECTATORS will be permitted at practices or events
- Competitions will be livestreamed to the best extent possible
- Essential personnel only will be permitted on school property during events
- No youth sports will be permitted on school property
- Travel will be limited to the best extent possible

How will my child be protected?

- Coaches and athletes will be screened using temperature checks and symptom form before each scheduled activity or event
- All athletes must wear a face covering if not actively participating in an activity
- All coaches and staff must wear a face covering at all times
- No spectators or visitors will be permitted at any athletic event
- Coaches and athletes who have traveled to one of high risk states identified by the PA Department of Health shall undergo a quarantine

Montgomery Area Athletic and Community Center

In order to protect the students, staff and community of Montgomery, the MACC will remain closed to the public until further notice. This situation will continue to be monitored and follow guidelines set forth by the PA DOH/CDC and the MASD Health and Safety Plan.

Full plan is available on the district website.

Montgomery Area School District

2020-2021 Pandemic Preferred Academic Enrollment Form

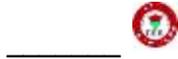
Student name: _____
(First and Last Name)

2020-2021 School year grade level _____

Please check the preferred enrollment option that this student will be using to access his/her learning for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. (Options are described in the MASD Phased Reopening Health and Safety Plan). **Please return this form to the school using the self-addressed stamped envelope by August 7th, 2020.**



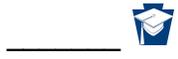
Traditional Model



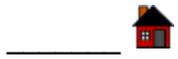
Hybrid Learning Model



Remote Instruction



My student will be withdrawing from the MASD and attending a Cyber Charter School



I plan to homeschool my child for the 2020-2021 school year

Transportation: *If utilizing the Traditional or Blended Learning Models*

_____ I will transport my child to and from school for the 2020-2021 school year

_____ My child will ride the school bus to and from school for the 2020-2021 school year

Parent Signature