



## **COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions**

### **How is Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) making decisions?**

Milwaukee Public Schools is collaborating with the City of Milwaukee Health Department, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Council of the Great City Schools in following recommendations and guidelines to help and prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

### **Is Milwaukee Public Schools closing schools?**

At this time, MPS has not closed any schools. While education is our primary responsibility, MPS recognizes that many students and families may rely on our schools for basic needs. The decision to close schools will be done with great care and consideration of the health and safety of students, staff, and families.

### **How will students, families, and staff learn about school closures?**

In the event of a school closure, you will receive a phone call, email, and/or text message with as much advance notice as possible. Information will be provided on the district's website, social media outlets, and notifications via the MPS app. MPS will also notify the local news media of any closures. Please make sure your contact information is up to date at your child's school.

### **What steps is the district taking to prevent the spread of COVID-19?**

Good hygiene habits are the most effective way to reduce the spread of COVID-19, according to the CDC. MPS is being proactive in helping prevent the spread of COVID-19. MPS has provided written recommendations to every school to encourage healthy habits such as:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.

MPS has shared additional cleaning guidance with all school leaders and Facilities and Maintenance staff. Schools have prioritized cleaning high-touch surface areas multiple times a day.

An emphasis is placed on sanitizing and disinfecting commonly touched surfaces throughout each school building, including counters, tables, desks, chairs, doorknobs, door surfaces, light switches, elevator buttons, railings, pencil sharpeners, computer keyboards, and lavatory fixtures. Efforts are being made to keep students and staff healthy and safe.

### **Are before and after school care or extended day programs canceled?**

At this time, before and after school care and extended day programs (i.e., Community Learning Center (CLCs) programs) are not canceled.

**Are athletics activities canceled?**

At this time, all athletic activities will continue as scheduled.

**Are evening and weekend extracurricular activities canceled?**

All evening and weekend extracurricular activities will continue as scheduled.

**Do schools need to make up lost instructional time?**

The district will make all efforts to provide support to students in meeting instructional time. The district is evaluating how instructional hours may be met in the event of a school closure.

**How will MPS keep families, staff, and students informed regarding COVID-19?**

As this is an evolving situation, MPS will post information on the district's website, social media outlets, and notifications via the MPS app. MPS will also notify the local news media of any closures. Please make sure your contact information is up to date at your child's school.

**How will MPS clean and disinfect schools?**

MPS has shared cleaning guidance with all school leaders and Facilities and Maintenance staff and has ordered additional cleaning supplies. Schools have prioritized cleaning high-touch surface areas multiple times a day and throughout the evening. Efforts are being made to keep students and staff healthy and safe.

**When should a student or staff member stay home?**

If students or staff experience fever of 100 degrees or higher, cough, and/or difficulty breathing, they should stay home from school and contact their health care provider immediately. If someone is running a fever, per the CDC recommendations, they must be "fever free" for 72 hours (without medication) before returning to work or school. Only a medical care professional can diagnose COVID-19.

**What conversations should families have with their children at home?**

MPS knows students, families, and staff want to stay informed. The district is committed to keeping you informed and working with you to keep our school communities healthy and safe. [Here's an informative graphic resource from NPR](#) to share with your child.

**Where can families and staff find additional information on COVID-19?**

Additional information can be found:

- [Talking to Children About COVID-19: A Parent Resource](#)
- [Guidance for Travelers, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [COVID-19 Information, City of Milwaukee Health Department](#)
- [COVID-19 Information, Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [COVID-19 Information, Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#)