



MARYVILLE
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Updated COVID Policy

Effective January 10, 2022

Over the past couple of weeks, the CDC and the Tennessee General Assembly have passed new recommendations and legislation during a special session regarding how schools and government agencies handle COVID. Guidance from the Tennessee Department of Health stemming from the new legislation is as follows:

NEW TENNESSEE COVID LEGISLATION

Government agencies in Tennessee may not require isolation of cases or quarantine of contacts. We can recommend/suggest/encourage/educate only.

Schools may not exclude kids specifically due to a COVID diagnosis/test result. However, they can continue existing policies to keep symptomatic ill children out of school. Public Health cannot be part of enforcing that policy.

The CDC has also issued updates to their isolation and quarantine recommendations.

Impact on Maryville Christian School's COVID policies:

As a private school, we are not obligated to abide by CDC, state issued, and public-school policies. However, we do allow such information to inform our policies and decisions. While we are aware that some schools are abandoning all COVID-related quarantines, contact tracing, and notification of potential exposure, we are not adjusting our policies to that degree. However, we are making some changes.

NEW COVID POLICIES

- We will continue to ask students who have tested positive for COVID to isolate. However, based on the newest recommendations from the CDC, the isolation period will now be 5 days as long as there has been no fever for 24 hours (without fever-reducing medication) and all other symptoms are improving.
- We will still be requiring quarantines for exposure to someone **within the home** who has tested positive for COVID. However, that quarantine period is being adjusted to 5 days as long as symptoms do not develop.
- We will continue notifying students/families about potential exposure at school.
- **We will no longer be requiring precautionary quarantines for potential exposure at school as long as there are no symptoms present.**

- Students who choose to be tested for COVID must remain out of school until test results are received.
- Families who choose to **voluntarily** quarantine because of confirmed school-related exposure will have those absences excused on the condition that the academic policy listed below is followed. Please note that these absences will now count toward the total allowed by the state. (The office must be notified by a parent of voluntary student quarantines.)
- Students who test positive for COVID and have been symptomatic will have a one-week gradual build-back period before they can fully participate in athletics. Contact the Athletic Department for more information.
- MCS school nurses will continue to make recommendations based on their observations. For instance, they may recommend a student be tested. However, those recommendations will not supersede this policy.

ACADEMIC COVID POLICY

ELEMENTARY (LOWER SCHOOL)

- Students who test positive for COVID will have the number of days that he/she is out of school to make up missed work. For instance, if a student misses 5 days of school, he/she will have 5 days from the first day back to turn in missed work.
- Students who wish to work on schoolwork while out of school may contact the teacher for work. However, it will be up to the teacher's discretion what work may be completed at home.

SECONDARY (UPPER SCHOOL)

- Students who test positive for COVID **and are symptomatic** will have the number of days that he/she is out of school to make up missed work. For instance, if a student misses 5 days of school, he/she will have 5 days from the first day back to turn in all missed work. Any exceptions must be approved by the teacher and principal.
- Students who test positive for COVID **and are asymptomatic** will be expected to stay current on all schoolwork. It will be the student's responsibility to contact the teacher about needed assignments. Students will have one day to make up tests or quizzes that are not available online during their isolation period. Any exceptions must be approved by the teacher and principal.
- Students who choose to **voluntarily quarantine** will be expected to stay current on all schoolwork. It will be the student's responsibility to contact the teacher about needed assignments. Students will have one day to make up tests or quizzes that are not available online during their quarantine period. Any exceptions must be approved by the teacher and principal.

As always, we will continue to monitor all new COVID-related information. As new information becomes available, we will adjust our policies accordingly. Any COVID-related questions can be sent to COVIDinfo@mcstn.org.