



INFECTIOUS DISEASES

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS

Will my student or I be penalized for staying home from school sick?

Absolutely not. We want our students to be at school. However, when they are sick, they should be at home. The same applies to our staff members. We need our staff to be healthy in order to care for our children, so they should stay home when they are sick.



What measures is the school district taking to prevent the spread of illness?

We have put additional plans in place to increase the disinfection of schools and buses. Monett also is taking this opportunity to remind students and staff about good hygiene and to cover coughs and sneezes.

At what point does the school take additional measures if needed?

If there were infections in our community, public health authorities may recommend specific measures to lessen the possibility of the spread of infection in our schools. This could include measures to increase “social distancing, such as moving desks further apart and limiting activities where large groups are closely gathered like assemblies or certain after school activities.



If my student travels outside of the country, will Monett R-1 Schools restrict their reentry into the school?

Monett R-1 will follow the direction of the Health Department in these situations. Right now people are being screened on entry to the country, and depending on a myriad of factors, public health officials make a decision about whether people can return to work or school after foreign travel.



How can my child and family stay well?

To prevent the spread of illness, follow these important tips:



Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.



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 close contact with people who are sick and stay home when you are sick.



Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.



Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

Current Procedures

Currently, we have increased our cleaning and sanitizing procedures and are emphasizing the importance of good hand hygiene at school. Although, we hope that our schools will not need to close, we are looking at ways to support student learning in the event of a prolonged closure. We will share more information about these plans as they become available.



What should I do if my child is sick?

If your child is sick, please keep them home from school. Please call your child's school and report the illness symptoms your student is experiencing to the administrative assistants. Call your child's health care provider for advice on managing your child's illness.



Are students given the opportunities to wash their hands during the school day including before lunch?

Students are being given opportunities to wash their hands during the school day. In locations where access to soap and water is limited, alcohol-based hand sanitizer is also available.

Can and/or should students and staff wear masks at school?

If there were infections in our community, public health authorities may recommend specific measures to lessen the possibility of the spread of infection in our schools. This could include measures to increase "social distancing, such as moving desks further apart and limiting activities where large groups are closely gathered like assemblies or certain after school activities.



Public health authorities do not currently recommend that healthy people routinely wear masks nor do we recommend that students and staff wear masks at school.

Monett R-1 will follow the direction of the Health Department in these situations. Right now people are being screened on entry to the country, and depending on a myriad of factors, public health officials make a decision about whether people can return to work or school after foreign travel.

How will Monett R-1 determine when it might be necessary to close school?

Closing schools would most likely be at the recommendation of public health authorities in the region or at the direction of elected local or state leadership. It is also possible that the Superintendent and Board of Education would make the decision to close schools if there were not enough healthy staff members available to work. There may also be a situation where specific schools would close while others are remained open. We are tracking student and staff illnesses in our schools on an ongoing basis.