



Marietta City Schools Student Safety Protocols (Early Learning Center)

The protocols detailed in this document are specific to students and families in the **Emily Lembeck Early Learning Center (Pre-K)**. We understand that attending in-person school is a deeply personal decision for each family and, as such, we hope the details below give you and your student the greatest degree of safety and peace of mind. Due to the nature of our early learning curriculum, which includes development of social-emotional skills and phonemic awareness, we are not offering a full-time virtual learning option for Pre-K students.

The protocols were developed in collaboration with various state and local agencies, which include but are not limited to the Georgia Department of Public Health, Georgia Department of Education, Cobb & Douglas Public Health, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and are subject to change based upon recommendations and guidance from these and other agencies. As guidelines are updated and our protocols are modified, we will provide updates to all staff and families and post relevant information on our MCS website.

Please note – updates since June 25, 2020 are noted by an asterisk (*) in the section header.

In-person Learning (Pre-K)

Student returns to the Emily Lembeck Early Learning Center (Monday-Friday), adhering to required MCS safety protocols.

Prior to making a decision, please review safety protocols outlined below.

Should you wish to discuss in-person learning in more detail (prior to making a decision), please contact Christine Ramirez, Director of the Early Learning Center, via email (cramirez@marietta-city.org) or phone (678-919-4590).

Safety Protocols for In-person Learning (Pre-K)

Collective Responsibility

Any return to in-person learning requires collective responsibility for every MCS family. Failure to do such significantly compromises the health and safety of all students and staff. It is imperative, now more than ever, that families do not send their child sick to school out of convenience or medicate the child before school in order to reduce a fever. We all share a collective responsibility to monitor our child and do the right thing.

Department of Public Health (DPH) Guidelines – Symptoms and Self-quarantine

Per the most recent DPH guidelines, any student or staff member who has a fever or other COVID-19 related symptoms may be required to be absent from school (self-quarantine) for at least 14 calendar days or until one can produce a negative COVID-19 test. Students and staff must be symptom free before returning to school or work. Please contact Cindy Davis, Executive Secretary for the Department of Special Services, by email (cindydavis@marietta-city.org) or phone (678-695-7238) for DPH guidelines regarding the appropriate timeline to take a COVID-19 test.

Individuals within close contact (less than six feet apart for at least 15 minutes) to another person in their classroom or office who shows COVID-19 related symptoms may also be required to self-quarantine for at least 14 calendar days or until one can produce a negative COVID-19 test. Students and staff must be symptom free before returning to school or work.

Department of Public Health (DPH) Guidelines – Contact with Person with Positive COVID-19 Test

Per the most recent DPH guidelines, any student or staff member who has contact with a person with a positive COVID-19 test will be required to be absent from school (self-quarantine) for at least 14 calendar days; in this situation, a negative COVID-19 test does not permit one to return to school or work. Contact is defined as less than six feet for at least 15 minutes.

If you test positive or believe you have been in contact with someone who has tested positive, please contact Cindy Davis, Executive Secretary for the Department of Special Services, by email (cindydavis@marietta-city.org) or phone (678-695-7238) for additional guidance. For further information regarding DPH protocols, please refer to the DPH website (“Quarantine Guidance: What to do if you were exposed to someone with the novel coronavirus (COVID-19”).

Contact Tracing

Per DPH guidelines, contact tracing will be initiated for any student or staff member who tests positive for COVID-19. This process will include identification of and notification to any person (student or staff) who was in close contact with the person within the last 48 hours of symptoms or the positive COVID-19 test. Close contact is considered less than six feet apart for at least 15 minutes.

***Masks/Shields**

MCS will require all staff, students, and visitors to wear a face covering while in MCS school and district buildings and on MCS school buses. Exceptions will be made for medical reasons and to accommodate eating and drinking, outdoor activities, and independent work in personal office spaces where physical distancing can be maintained. Students may use a face shield in addition to a face covering; however, per Cobb & Douglas Public Health, a face shield does not provide the same degree of protection for self and others and would not serve as a suitable substitute for a face covering. A disposable mask will be provided for any student who boards the school bus or arrives to school without an appropriate face covering.

We acknowledge the importance of providing opportunities (socially distanced and not indoors) for students and staff to periodically remove their face covering. Teachers will create as many opportunities for these breaks as possible.

At-home Temperature Checks

All families are requested to check the temperature of their child each day prior to leaving their home for school. If necessary, thermometers will be provided. Please contact Cindy Davis via email (cindydavis@marietta-city.org) or phone (678-695-7238) to request a thermometer.

Temperature Checks – Arrival at School

All Pre-K students will have their temperature checked before exiting the vehicle (in the carpool line) or being handed off to a staff member (if a walker). Students with a temperature below 100.4° Fahrenheit will be permitted to exit the car and/or enter the center; any student with a temperature at or above 100.4° Fahrenheit will be directed to return home with their parent/guardian.

Return to School Verification
Per the most recent DPH guidelines, any student or staff member who has a fever or other COVID-19 related symptoms may be required to be absent from school (self-quarantine) for at least 14 calendar days or until one can produce a negative COVID-19 test. Students and staff must be symptom free before returning to school or work. Appropriate documentation may be required prior to a student returning to in-person learning.
Classroom Protocols
To provide the greatest degree of social distancing and safety protocols, Pre-K teachers will adhere to the following classroom guidelines: To the greatest degree possible, separate student tables. When possible, limit whole-class activities; instead, students will work in small groups. To the greatest extent possible, limit sharing of supplies, books, toys, etc.; disinfecting supplies prior to passing from one student to another. Hand sanitizer and disinfecting spray available in each classroom. Increased opportunities (weather and space permitting) for students to go outside. Significant efforts to keep students grouped by class (and not mix or co-mingle students from different classes). Use of disposable bathroom/hall passes.
School Meals (Breakfast/Lunch)
As we have done in previous years (and is part of our normal school day), school breakfast will be served in the classroom. School lunch will alternate each week between the cafeteria and the classroom. Only one class will be in the cafeteria at a time, and the cafeteria will be disinfected between each class.
Outdoor Activities/Recess
Teachers will seek frequent and creative opportunities to allow children to go outside during the school day. During recess and any other times that students may be outside, only one class will access the playground at a time. All playground equipment will be disinfected between each classroom use. Each class will use their own collection of balls and other outside toys that will be isolated to that specific class and disinfected each night.
School Signage
Age- and developmentally appropriate signage will be placed throughout the Early Learning Center to remind students of personal hygiene (hand washing, coughing into arm, etc.) and social distancing from others. Additionally, signage will be used to create one-way directional walk patterns in some areas of the building.
School Cleaning and Disinfecting
Throughout the school day, extra custodial staff will be provided to each school to further disinfect high-touch areas. Additionally, classrooms, hallways, and common areas will be fogged and disinfected each night.

General School Considerations and Safety Protocols (Pre-K)
Fall Break
Due to our beginning the 2020-2021 school year on Tuesday, August 4 as scheduled, we will not need to alter our district calendar. As such, Marietta City Schools will observe Fall Break from September 28-October 2.

Before School Program (BSP)/After School Program (ASP)

BSP and ASP will be offered at the Early Learning Center. Additional safety protocols will be implemented to maintain appropriate social distancing of students and prevent commingling of students from different classes in BSP/ASP. For additional information regarding protocols, pricing and registration, visit <https://mariettacommunityschool.ce.eleyo.com/BSP-ASP>. Please contact Kimberly Custance, Director of Marietta Community School, at MariettaCommunitySchool@marietta-city.org or at 678-919-4496 with additional questions about the BSP and ASP Programs. In order to better align class assignments and BSP/ASP, registration for BSP/ASP for the Emily Lembeck Early Learning Center will occur from July 1-July 15. Look for additional information to be sent by Christine Ramirez to all registered Pre-K families.

Limit Non-essential School Visitors and Volunteers

To protect our students and staff, MCS will limit non-essential school visitors and volunteers to the center. All essential visitors or volunteers will be subject to a temperature check and answering the following COVID-related screening questions:

- Do you have a **fever** (temperature over 100.4°F or 38°C) without having taken any fever-reducing medications?
- Do you have a **loss of smell or taste**?
- Do you have a **cough**?
- Do you have **muscle aches**?
- Do you have a **sore throat**?
- Do you have **congestion or a runny nose**?
- Do you have **shortness of breath**?
- Do you have **chills**?
- Do you have a **headache**?
- Have you experienced the new onset of any **gastrointestinal symptoms** such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, or loss of appetite in the last few days?
- Have you, or anyone you have been in close contact with, been **diagnosed with COVID-19 or placed in quarantine** for possible exposure to COVID-19 within the last two weeks?
- Have you been **asked to self-isolate or quarantine** by a medical professional or a local public health official in the last two weeks?

Student Gatherings and Large Group Events/Meetings

During Fall 2020, significant limitations will occur relative to student gatherings and large group events/meetings. Christine Ramirez will provide additional details about how such events may occur virtually, when appropriate.

Student Field Trips

During Fall 2020, student field trips will be limited; consideration will be given on a case-by-case basis for field trips that achieve appropriate degree of social distance and avoid co-mingling of students.