



Molalla River Academy Operational Plan for Safe Return to In-Person Learning



August 27, 2021



The Oregon Department of Education has stated that schools must plan to provide full-time, in-person education for all students every school day for the 2021-2022 school year. It is our goal to safely operate in-person school with reasonable mitigation efforts in place.

Accordingly, on June 25, 2021 the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) in collaboration with the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) released the [Ready Schools, Safe Learners Resiliency Framework \(RSSL-RF\) for the 2021-2022 School Year](#). This guidance replaces the Ready Schools, Safe Learners Guidance that we operated under during the 2020-2021 school year. The new Resiliency Framework became effective on June 30, 2021.

School Days, Instructional Times & the Return to Existing Requirements in 2021-2022

The Molalla River Academy will conduct in-person learning for all students five days a week. Comprehensive Distance Learning will not be offered during the 2021-2022 school year. Parents and students interested in an online learning option should contact the Executive Director to discuss options.

Molalla River Academy will be returning to school and following the requirements listed below:

- Meet all standard instructional time requirements in Division 22 (*OAR-581-022-0102(30) and OAR 581- 022-2320*)
- Maintain a [communicable disease management plan](#) (*OAR 581-022-2220*)
- Exclude staff or students from school who have been exposed to COVID-19 (*OAR 333-019-0010*)
- Maintain health care and space that isolates sick or injured students (*OAR 581-022-2320*)
- Administer state assessments as required by state and federal law (*ORS 329.485; OAR 581-022-2100*)
- Reinstate the 10-day drop rule for enrollment (*OAR 581-023-0006(4)*), attendance and reporting practices (*OAR 581-023-0006(1)(f)*) and notifications (*ORS 339.071*)

COVID-19 Health and Safety

Consistent with following the RSSL and OHA's guidance throughout last school year, MRA staff continue to look to this same authority for health and safety guidance.

It should be noted and emphasized that what happens with COVID-19 between now, the start of school and throughout the school year may require changes in our state's response efforts. The Resiliency Framework may then be updated to reflect any changes. COVID-19 continues to change with new variants, and our knowledge of mitigation efforts also grows over time. **As such, the MRA operational plan and the outlined application of mitigation efforts are subject to change.**

Everyone in our community shares in the responsibility to keep our communities safe and healthy. This responsibility asks each person to both maintain their own health as well as respect the individual decisions of others regarding their own health and safety. This mutual respect shown by adults in our community provides a powerful example to our children in our community.

Outlined below are the key COVID-19 mitigation measures (such as face coverings, physical distancing, cohorts, hand hygiene, airflow ventilation) as listed in the Resiliency Framework. The advisory comment in quotations is pulled directly from the Resiliency Framework, and is followed by MRA's position for the 2021-2022 school year (in green).

MRA will continue to foster a culture and provide assurances of inclusion, respect, equity and care for every member of our school community.

Vaccination

"Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 is the best way to stop the pandemic, and return society to more typical functioning. Everyone age 12 and up is eligible for a free COVID-19 vaccine" (*RSSL-RF, June 25, 2021*).

MRA 2021-2022 School Year:

Vaccination is one of the best methods of primary prevention and stopping the Covid-19 pandemic and returning society to a typical pattern of function (Oregon Health Authority, 2021).

Vaccination also impacts quarantine requirements in the event of an exposure. Individuals who are vaccinated may not need to quarantine, and instead self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days. Individuals will be required to submit proof of vaccination in order to avoid quarantine in an exposure.

As of August 2021, the state of Oregon requires all employees, visitors and volunteers in the K-12 setting to be vaccinated against COVID-19 by October 18, 2021. Proof of vaccination will be required. Short-term visitors or individuals making deliveries are not subject to this rule.

Face Coverings

“On August 2, 2021 OHA adopted a rule requiring face coverings in all K-12 indoor school settings (OAR 333-019-1015). This rule applies to public, private, parochial, charter, youth corrections education programs (YCEP) and juvenile detention education programs (JDEP) or alternative educational programs offering kindergarten through grade 12 or any part thereof.

Based on direction from the ODE (August 3, 2021) all individuals over the age of 2 are required to wear a face covering while indoors in a K-12 school, during school hours. Certain accommodations for medical needs or disability may be necessary. Children under 2 who are learning in preschool classrooms that operate in school settings are not required to wear face coverings.

Per the Masking Requirements in Schools mandate, any individual who is at the K-12 school site who is 2 years and older (including visitors) are required to wear a mask indoors during school hours. That said, three and four year old children visiting K-12 indoor settings are required to wear a mask.

MRA 2021-2022 School Year:

MRA will maintain practice that aligns with current executive orders and emergency rules, and state and federal guidelines pertaining to masks. **Currently universal masking indoors is required at school for all individuals over the age of 2.** Certain accommodations will be available for students with medical needs or specific disabilities.

Physical Distancing

“OHA and ODE strongly advise that schools support and promote physical distancing as described below:

- Support physical distancing in all daily activities and instruction, maintaining at least 3 feet between students to the extent possible.
- Consider physical distancing requirements when setting up learning and other spaces, arranging spaces and groups to allow and encourage at least 3 feet of physical distance.
- Minimize time standing in lines and take steps to ensure that required distance between students is maintained, including marking spacing on floor, one-way traffic flow in constrained spaces, etc.” (*RSSL-RF, June 25, 2021*).

MRA 2021-2022 School Year:

MRSD will prioritize the return of all students every day in the school setting. To the extent possible, MRA will practice 3 feet of distancing for positive infection control and when feasible will encourage 6- foot distancing. MRA will follow distancing measures as designated by state and federal guidelines.

Cohorting

“OHA and ODE strongly advise that schools design cohorts for students to the extent possible” (RSSL-RF, June 25, 2021).

MRA 2021-2022 School Year:

The Molalla River Academy will work to minimize the interactions between grade-level groups at the elementary schools during the normal course of the instructional day to the greatest extent possible. MRA will not require cohorting in order to allow all students to access their anticipated schedule on all days.

Isolation & Quarantine

“**Isolation** separates people who have a contagious disease from people who are not sick. **Quarantine** separates and restricts the movement of people who were exposed to a contagious disease and could become infectious themselves to limit further spread of the disease. Note: an exposure is defined as an individual who has close contact (less than 6 feet) for longer than 15 cumulative minutes in a day with a person who has COVID-19. Health care and a designated space that is appropriately supervised and adequately equipped for providing first aid and isolating the sick or injured child are **required by OAR 581-022-2220**.”

MRA 2021-2022 School Year:

The Molalla River Academy will continue to adhere to and enforce school exclusion processes outlined in the MRSD Communicable Disease Plan. Parents are requested to keep children home who are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms or any other symptom outlined in the exclusion policy. MRA will consult directly with the local public health authority regarding COVID-19 isolation and quarantine procedures.

Vaccinated individuals will not need to quarantine; vaccination status will need to be verified in collaboration with public health to be exempt from quarantine. Additionally, we will employ the quarantine exception (7.22.21) from ODE Resiliency Framework that states students who were within 3 or more feet of an infected student where both students were consistently wearing face coverings will not have to quarantine.

Hand Hygiene

“OHA and ODE strongly advise that schools create protocols and systems to ensure access to soap, water and alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. Schools will prioritize handwashing with soap and water after students or staff use the restroom” (RSSL-RF, June 25, 2021).

MRA 2021-2022 School Year:

The Molalla River Academy will continue to implement protocols and systems to ensure access to soap, water and alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. The handwashing stations that were added last school year will remain in each building. Schools will prioritize handwashing with soap and water after students or staff use the restroom, before and after eating, before and after specials classes, and throughout the day as appropriate.

Airflow & Ventilation

“ODE and OHA strongly advise schools to ensure effective ventilation and improve the indoor air quality in schools by:

- Increasing the amount of fresh outside air that is introduced into the system;
- Exhausting air from indoors to the outdoors; and
- Cleaning the air that is recirculated indoors with effective filtration methods (e.g., HEPA filters) to remove virus-containing particles from the air” (*RSSL-RF, June 25, 2021*).

MRA 2021-2022 School Year:

MRA will continue to ensure effective ventilation and improve the indoor air quality in schools by:

- Continuing the amount of fresh outside air that is introduced into the system;
- Exhausting air from indoors to the outdoors;
- Maintaining a climate level that balances comfort and safety within a classroom and building;
- Cleaning the air that is recirculated indoors with effective filtration methods to remove virus-containing particles from the air.

Environmental Cleaning & Disinfection

MRA will continue to implement regular cleaning procedures in all buildings. Special attention will be given to high touch surfaces. In the event of a classroom outbreak of COVID-19, we will conduct a thorough cleaning of associated areas per CDC guidance. To the greatest extent possible, sharing of supplies and materials will be limited.



Staff Training and Guidance

All staff will be required to complete a COVID-19 training that will provide updated information and clear guidelines that meet the health and safety expectations set out by the school.

Visitors and Volunteers

One of our top priorities for the 2021-22 school year is to keep students in our school buildings for in-person learning as many days as possible. As such, we will be limiting non-essential visitors and volunteers into our schools until at least 10/18/2021. We will work with parents/parent groups to determine if some volunteer work may be feasible when students are not in our buildings.

Parent volunteers and involvement have always been an essential part of our school community, and we look forward to the time that we will be able to welcome them back. We will review this policy in October, in concert with the Covid-19 public health mitigation recommendations at that time. Further, per the Governor's order on August 19th, volunteers in our schools must be vaccinated against Covid-19.