



SCHOOL HEALTH PROTOCOLS: 2020-21

Meriden Department of Health and Human Services

CURRENT AS OF JULY 15, 2020

The following is the Meriden Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) protocol and plan in preparing for the School year 2020-21 during the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus 2019) pandemic. COVID-19 is a rapidly changing emerging public health issue. These protocols are subject to change in accordance with the most recent Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and CT State Department Public Health, CT State Department of Education and Governor's guidance.

These protocols are in addition to the already existing School Health Protocols for Childhood Illnesses.

Required Safety Measures

The Public Health Nurse working for the MDHHS is responsible for the following in response to the opening of school during the COVID-19 pandemic:

1. Public Health Nurses must always wear a face covering while on school property, unless it is contrary to their health.
2. Public Health Nurses must wear an N95 respirator when involved in aerosol-generating procedures.
3. Public Health Nurses must wear a face shield when involved in aerosol-generating procedures.
4. Public Health Nurses must have a temperature screen prior to entering the school building (self-check).
5. Public Health Nurses must twice daily clean/disinfect frequently touched surface areas within the health office, in addition to the cleaning of equipment between patients (see attached form).

1. Students or staff entering the health office not feeling well with COVID-19 –like symptoms.

- A. The Public Health Nurse will isolate the student or staff member in the designated isolation area within the health office.
- B. The Public Health Nurse will perform a temperature check (using a hands – free thermometer) and symptom assessment while wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- C. The student or staff member must be excluded from school and can only return with a documented negative COVID-19 test result or a note from their healthcare provider.
- D. If the student or staff member has had close contact to a known COVID-19 case they must be excluded from school for 14 days from last known exposure regardless of symptoms or negative test result. Call the Health Director/Associate Health Director to determine close contact status.
- E. All students waiting for transportation home must wait in the isolation area until their parent/guardian arrives.
- F. The Health Director and/or Associate Health Director will be notified immediately by phone of a suspected COVID-19 illness.

- G. If a child or staff member that has been present in school has a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis, notify the Health Director and/or Associate Health Director by phone immediately. If this individual is present in the building, they need to be isolated immediately and sent home.
- H. The Health Director and/or Associate Health Director will notify the Superintendent of Schools of any positive diagnosis and will provide guidance in accordance with the latest CDC guidelines. Parents will be notified within 24 hours of a lab-confirmed positive case.

2. Students or staff who require respiratory treatments while in the school setting. This includes, but is not limited to, suctioning, nebulizer treatments, high-flow oxygenation, or conditions that create uncontrolled aerosol secretions.

When a Public Health Nurse receives a medical and/or treatment authorization form from a healthcare provider, in addition to the order, it must also contain the safe and effective way to care for the student/staff member and the appropriate PPE required to provide this care.

- A. The treatment must be done in an isolated area away from others and only the Public Health Nurse performing the treatment shall be present.
- B. When the treatment is completed and the student/staff member has left, maintenance staff must be notified to have the room disinfected/sanitized.
- C. The Public Health Nurse/Health Aide will disinfect/sanitize all equipment and surfaces used in the care of the student.

3. Students or staff who require routine medications or special procedures while in a school setting.

When a Public Health Nurse receives an order for a medication and/or special procedure authorization from a healthcare provider that requires daily doses or testing, the Public Health Nurse will review the form with the parent/guardian.

- A. The Public Health Nurse will provide the student with a daily appointment time in coordination with the teacher and parent. The student must adhere to in an effort to maintain social distancing and prevent the spread of illness.
- B. Appointments will be made in at least 20-minute intervals so that infection control measures can be maintained.
- C. The Public Health Nurse will document in Power School the scheduled appointment time.
- D. For students requiring an as-needed medication, unless it is an emergency, the teacher will call the Public Health Nurse prior to sending the student to the health office.
- E. The Public Health Nurse/Health Aide will clean/disinfect all touched surfaces and equipment in between student/staff visits.

4. Students or staff who require the Public Health Nurses' assistance with non-life threatening, non-COVID 19 related concerns.

Unless there is a life threatening emergency, all efforts should be made to manage minor cuts and somatic complaints in the classroom setting.

- A. Public Health Nurses will supply teachers with gloves and first aid supplies to care for minor cuts and scratches in the classroom setting.
- B. Public Health Nurses will supply teachers with feminine hygiene products for student access.
- C. If it is determined by the classroom teacher that a student requires a health room visit, the teacher will call the Public Health Nurse **prior** to sending the student to the health office.
- D. The Public Health Nurse will determine, depending on the number of students in the health office, if the student can be seen immediately or if an appointment time is necessary.
- E. The Public Health Nurse/Health Aide will clean/disinfect all touched surfaces and equipment in between student/staff visits.

5.Student or staff who require immediate/emergency Public Health Nurse assistance.

When a student or staff require immediate medical attention, unless there is no other alternative, the Public Health Nurse will be called and will report to the scene of the person in need. Every effort shall be made to maintain the individual in place until the Public Health Nurse arrives. The Public Health Nurse will determine the best course of action, which may include calling 911.

In the event of immediate/emergency care outside of the health office, Maintenance staff will be called to clean/disinfect all touched surfaces on-scene.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- A. Public Health Nurses, at a minimum, must twice daily clean/disinfect frequently touched surface areas within the health office.
- B. Public Health Nurses must document using the attached cleaning log.
- C. Public Health Nurses must clean/disinfect equipment between patient use (cot, blood pressure cuff, pulse oximeter, etc.)
- D. The Public Health Nurse will notify maintenance staff immediately when a suspected COVID-19 patient uses the health office bathroom; the bathroom will be closed for use until a thorough cleaning is completed.
- E. Only students/staff that are ill in the health office shall use the health office bathroom. Healthy students/staff must use another designated bathroom outside of the health office.