

Office of the Superintendent of Schools  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Rockville, Maryland

November 17, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education  
From: Monifa B. McKnight, Interim Superintendent of Schools  
Subject: Evidence of Learning (09-21-2021-02-A, -02, -03, -05)

During the *Equity Accountability Framework: Evidence of Learning* discussion, Board members requested the following information:

A. Ms. Harris requested the following information:

**Question 2**

Please provide information regarding the “whole classroom quarantine” default at some schools, and is that a true reflection of contact tracing or just an easier step to take. Also, how is instruction being provided for those students until they can return to their classroom?

**Question 2 Response**

There is no standard practice to employ whole class quarantine. Students are quarantined if they are determined to be a close contact. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) follows the recommendations and guidance of the Maryland Department of Health, the Maryland State Department of Education, and the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services regarding the need to isolate and quarantine students due to a positive COVID-19 test or exposure. Following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, MCPS staff work with classroom and school staff to gather information, including seating charts, classroom activities, lunch and recess contacts, to identify close contacts who need to quarantine. If students are quarantined, they are provided with access to live instruction and independent work assignments.

**Question 3**

Please provide information regarding how families should handle the siblings of students who have been quarantined: Since they are close contacts with their siblings, shouldn't they be quarantined as well?

**Question 3 Response**

Only direct close contacts of positive cases must quarantine. If a student has a sibling or other family member to whom they have been exposed, they must quarantine. However,

if the sibling is merely a close contact, and currently is not symptomatic, the other students in the home are not required to quarantine as they have not been exposed directly to a positive COVID-19 individual.

**Question 5**

Please provide an update soon on how this mentioned process has been used by our focus schools (Longview, Carl Sandburg, and Rock Terrace) to allow them to adapt these strategies to assist their student bodies. How are they using this process to aid the progress of their students?

**Question 5 Response**

The quarantine and contact tracing practices consistently are implemented across all school settings. Students are provided with access to live instruction and independent work during their quarantine period.

The overwhelming majority of quarantines in our special schools are full class quarantine due to the nature of their disabilities and difficulty with consistent mask wearing. In those cases, the students all are receiving full day instruction from their teacher. When a student is in individual quarantine, the teachers design and deliver instruction in math and literacy that is adapted to the needs of the student.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Ruschelle Reuben, chief of teaching, learning, and schools, via email.

MBM:RR:SEG:vnr:jea

Copy to:

Executive Staff

Ms. Webb