

Spring 2022 COVID-19 Information

We look forward to welcoming students back to campus for the spring semester. Please know that while we cannot predict what the semester may hold, we will do our best to adapt as needed while keeping the safety of our students and staff at the forefront of our decision-making. We have a team that meets regularly and closely monitors local, state and national COVID-19 related information. In light of the recent spike of COVID-19 cases in the Meridian Technology Center district, the following details have been developed. **These are our plans as of today.**

Our goal is to continue offering our hands-on education in person. We depend on a strong partnership with you to accomplish this. We are all in this together and are grateful for your support.

You can check meridiantech.edu/covid19info for updates.

Precautions

Meridian has implemented the following practices to limit exposure to COVID-19, which will include, but are not limited to:

- Encouraging the wearing of masks (especially on buses)
- Encouraging at least 3 feet of social distancing if masked and six if unmasked
- Modified bus drop-off/pick-up locations
- Modified break schedules in the Skywalk
- Discouraging students from gathering in common areas
- Encouraging frequent hand washing/use of hand sanitizer
- Enhanced cleaning/sanitation practices

Masks

Students and staff are strongly encouraged to wear masks. Masks are provided at our entrances, or you may wear your own. If you are not feeling well, have a cough or shortness of breath, fever, sore throat or chills, please protect yourself and others by staying home.

Symptoms

People with COVID-19 have had a **wide range of symptoms** reported – ranging from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus. Anyone can have mild to severe symptoms. People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms.

Guidance

We have considered a number of factors in the guidelines below.

- Meridian will follow the CDC's recommendations for quarantine.
- However, in May 2021, the [Oklahoma legislature passed a law](#) that prevents schools from implementing a mask policy. Therefore, Meridian will continue to require a 10-day isolation for individuals who test positive. This is also in accordance with Meridian's [policy on Contagious/Communicable Diseases](#).
- Please note that CDC guidelines are subject to change. Recent recommendations can be found at bit.ly/33aPEI4.

Isolation: Positive for COVID-19

Students who know or think they have COVID-19 **must**:

- Isolate for 10 days from the first onset of symptoms.
- If, after 10 days from the first onset of symptoms, symptoms are improving and the student is fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine, they may return to school.

Note: Students who are required to isolate will be provided the opportunity for virtual learning.

Quarantine: Close Contact (Exposed to Someone with COVID-19)

Students who are identified as a close contact as a result of contact with someone positive for COVID-19 are **strongly encouraged** to follow the CDC guidelines for quarantine:

Scenario 1:

IF you have been boosted OR completed the primary series of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months OR completed the primary series of the J&J vaccine within the last 2 months,

THEN wear a mask around others for 10 days. Test on day 5. If you develop symptoms get a test and stay home.

If you have a fever, continue to stay home until fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine.

Scenario 2:

IF you completed the primary series of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted OR completed the primary series of the J&J over 2 months ago and are not boosted OR are unvaccinated,

THEN stay home for 5 days. After that continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days. If you can't quarantine you must wear a mask for 10 days. Test on day 5. If you have a fever, continue to stay home until

fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine.

Note: Students who quarantine will be provided the opportunity for virtual learning.

Notification

Meridian will notify students and their guardians anytime there is a positive case on campus. In addition, we will notify students and their guardians if we believe a student had close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.