

BLACKMON ROAD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Where the Pursuit of Learning is Boundless

PENNY BOWEN GORUM
PRINCIPAL

KEITH WELLS
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Welcome Back Letter

Dear Parents,

First and foremost, we hope that you and your loved ones are safe and healthy. We know this outbreak has been stressful to many.

Thank you for your support and understanding as we continue to map our response to the challenges of COVID-19. While we are in the business of educating, our first priority is the safety of our students and our employees. Be assured, we have been working diligently on our BRMS 2020-2021 restart plans. To help reduce the risk of transmission, the District is implementing employee and student health screening procedures for everyone to follow before coming onto MCSD property which includes:

- Completing a Symptom Tracker
- Daily Temperature Checks on site
- Face coverings will be required of all who enter a district building. Please note Special considerations for students with exceptionalities, such as hearing impaired, ESOL, and students with speech and language disabilities, or other disabilities should collaborate with the students IEP and 504 Team or medical physician.
- Visitors will be restricted to certain locations on school property
- Cleaning procedures have been revised. Cleaning guides can be found on our website.

<https://muscogee.k12.ga.us/CMS/File/2e3685a5-0701-40e9-b141-0fa96767d93b>

In the event of a potential exposure while at school, all affected employees and students' parents/guardians will be notified, and exposure communications will be initiated to all affected staff. Parents will be provided instructions regarding isolation and containment, along with stay-at-home instructions as applicable.

To protect our children and staff, we need the assistance and collaboration with our parents/guardians and request you please affirm the below daily:

- I agree not to send my child to school when he/she is sick or feeling unwell with the symptoms consistent with COVID-19.
- I agree to screen my child each day prior to sending him/her to school and agree to keep my child at home if he/she has:
 - Feeling feverish and/or having chills (if documented temperature/fever of 100.0 F or greater)
 - A new cough not due to another health condition
 - A new sore throat not due to another health condition
 - New chills not due to another health condition
 - New muscle pain not due to another health condition or that may have been caused by a specific activity such as physical exercise
 - New loss of taste or smell

If your child becomes sick and has COVID, you agree that the following are true:

7251 Blackmon Road
Columbus, Georgia 31909
(706) 565-2998 Office (706) 565-3006 FAX
Website: <http://blackmon.muscogee.k12.ga.us/>

- My child tested negative for COVID-19 (rapid test will not be accepted) and is otherwise well enough to go back to school **OR**
- A healthcare provider has seen my child and documented a reason for the symptoms other than COVID-19 **OR**
- All of the following are true:
 - 1) it has been at least 10 days since the start of symptoms **AND**
 - 2) my child is fever free without fever reducing medicines for 48 hours **AND**
 - 3) all other symptoms have improved.

I agree not to send my child back to school if he/she is diagnosed with COVID-19, until the following are met:

It has been at least 10 days since my child first had symptoms **AND**

My child has had no fever without fever reducing medicines (ex: Tylenol, Ibuprofen) for 48 hours **AND**

My child's symptoms have improved.

If someone in my household has been diagnosed with COVID-19, or my child is exposed to someone who has COVID-19, I agree to keep my child home for 14 days after their last exposure to such person.

***Exposure is defined as being within 6 feet of an individual who tested positive for COVID-19, for 15 minutes or more.**

If someone in my household develops fever, new cough, shortness of breath or two of the following: sore throat, chills, muscle pain, headache, new loss of taste or smell, I will get that person evaluated and tested for COVID-19. If that person tests positive,

I will keep my child home for 14 days after their last exposure to this household member **OR** as above if my child tests positive.

Child's name: _____

Parent/guardian name: _____

Parent/guardian signature: _____



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Isolation Room: Students Who Are Present With Symptoms

Students with a temperature of 100.0 degrees or above or who are exhibiting other COVID-19 symptoms must not come to school. If those symptoms are identified at school, the Georgia Department of Education and the CDC recommend that schools remove such students from the classroom and promptly separate them while parents/guardians are contacted so that student can then go home or seek medical as appropriate as soon as possible.

MCS D is preparing to follow these guidelines. Locations to appropriately isolate sick students are being identified. Your child may be isolated except for appropriate adult supervision, or may be in a room with other similar students, maintaining appropriate social distance and using appropriate face coverings, until you arrive.

If you are contacted because your child has been placed in one of these isolation rooms, you will need to immediately come to the school to pick up your child. Your obligation to do this is important for your child's health and health of others, please assure that all emergency contact information is up to date.

Return to school:

Students may return to school with a clear alternative diagnosis from a medical provider

Or

With Molecular or Antigen confirmed negative test. In addition to the test, they can return to school once there is no fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines for 48 hours and they have felt well for 24 hours.

Or

• If a child has not been tested but is suspected of having COVID-19, the student may return to school once:

- Symptoms have improved, AND
- The child is free of fever, without medication, for 48 hours, AND
- 10 days have passed since the onset of symptoms

o If a child tests positive for COVID-19, a student may return to school only:

Students who test positive for COVID-19 may return when the following has been met:

- Once the respiratory and stomach symptoms have improved, AND
- The child is free of fever, without medication, for 72 hours AND
- 10 days have passed since the positive test, and he/she has been cleared to return by the school nurse or clinic worker.

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Visitor Protocol

As the Muscogee County School District (MCSD) continues to evaluate the COVID-19 situation, we are adjusting our policies and procedures to ensure we are prioritizing student and personnel safety. Effective immediately, MCSD has adopted a general rule that it will prohibit non-essential visitors to schools. Exceptions to this rule for specific situations will be addressed at the school level on a case by case basis, based on the circumstances. MCSD understands the importance of parent / guardian involvement, and seeks to reinstate visitation as soon as it is safe, so this procedure will be continuously reviewed and adjusted to align to the medical guidance and COVID-19 situation in the Muscogee County community.

Please be aware that MCSD will screen any admitted visitors for COVID-19 symptoms and will require that any visitors wear a mask to promote social distancing. This updated procedure will be in place until the transmission of COVID-19 is no longer a threat to patients, staff, and the community.

Exception: Should you have any questions, or seek an exception to this procedure, please contact Tracy Fox, at 706-748-2380 or Fox.Tracy.L@muscogee.k12.ga.us

Visitor Screening: All visitors will be screened for symptoms, including fever greater than or equal to 100°F cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, sore throat, congestion that differs from their typical seasonal allergies, body aches, fatigue, loss of smell/taste, diarrhea. If you are not comfortable sharing this information, please do not seek to visit during this time.

All check-ins and check-outs will be done by phone prior to arriving on our campus. We will then ask for ID at the door to verify identity.

If you need to drop off an item for your child, you will contact the office by phone when arriving, and a staff member will meet you at the door to receive the item. No outside food will be allowed this year due to precautions with Covid.

All parent conferences will be held via Zoom or by phone.

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