

Health & Safety Policy

Effective Date: January 1, 2021

The health and safety of our students, staff, and families is our top priority here at MRA. Therefore, students, staff, and families must adhere to following guidelines to ensure everyone's safety. We thank you in advance for helping us keep everyone safe and healthy.

Keep your child home if they have...

- **Temperature of 99.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher** any time within 24 hours before coming to school. Your child must be fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicines. Although a feverish child may not be contagious, such as with an ear infection, your child will continue to be uncomfortable.
- **Vomiting or diarrhea** within 24 hours before coming to school. Children must be kept home until 24 hours after the last vomiting/diarrhea episode.
- **Constant cough or nasal drainage.**
- **Any infectious or communicable illness or disease.** Please report the diagnosis of any infectious illness or disease to the office. If your child gets strep throat, they may not return to school until they have been on antibiotic medication for 24 hours after confirmed diagnosis.
- **Open rashes or skin sores.** If your child has a rash or open skin sore with any sort of discharge, "weeping," or drainage they should be kept home until the rash or sore is diagnosed or no longer open or draining.
- **Red, inflamed or draining eyes or ears.** If your child has drainage from the eye, medical attention may be necessary. If your child has pink eye, they must have antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to school.
- **Signs of pain or illness** such as stomach pain, headache, sore throat, unusual tiredness, paleness, etc.

Your child may be sent home from school if they have any of the following: elevated temperature (99.4 degrees or higher), vomiting, diarrhea, or any symptoms of illness, such as a sore throat, constant cough, red inflamed eyes, etc.

- If we believe your child needs to be sent home for any of the reasons listed above, we will contact you via phone. If we cannot reach either parent/guardian, we will reach out to your listed emergency contacts.
- Once we have contacted you, you or an authorized person to pick up must come pick up your child within 30 minutes of us notifying you. If you cannot arrive within 30 minutes, please notify the office with your exact ETA or alternative arrangements.

If your child is diagnosed with any infectious or communicable illness or disease, please notify the office immediately. This includes, but is not limited to, strep throat, croup, pink eye, lice, impetigo, hand, foot, & mouth, influenza, etc. A sign will be posted by the sign in/out computer to notify you any time an infectious disease is reported. You will not be notified by via email unless it is emergent or a more serious illness, such as influenza A or lice. We do not ever disclose which child has the reported illness or disease to other children or parents.

Medication: If needed during the school day, medication must be kept in the office. Both the physician and parent are required to provide written permission for each prescription medication, whether it is for short-term or long-term use. Over-the-counter medications such as acetaminophen, ibuprofen, etc., will require a signed parent permission record, which is only valid for two weeks. With written permission from a physician and parent, an over-the-counter medication may be used long term.

Inhalers: If needed, please provide an inhaler to be kept in the office. Elementary and Middle School students may be permitted to carry their inhaler with them should they need it. Permission for students to carry their own inhaler will be determined on an individual basis by the office.

EpiPens: If your child's allergies have warranted their doctor to prescribe an EpiPen for treatment, we will need an Anaphylaxis Action Plan from the physician or allergist. EpiPens must be provided by parents prior to your child's first day of attendance at MRA; your child will not be allowed to attend until an EpiPen is provided. EpiPens are kept in the office.

Immunization requirements for students: The Minnesota School Immunization Law requires the following immunizations, unless otherwise exempt for medical reasons or guardian objection. Note: MRA does not discriminate based on immunization preference, therefore the Immunization form in our student paperwork includes immunization exemption. MRA requires a copy of your child's immunization records and/or a notarized immunization exemption.

Before entering Kindergarten, all students must have:

- DTP (diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis): 5 doses
- Polio: 4 doses
- MMR (measles, mumps, rubella): 2 doses
- Hepatitis B: 3 doses
- Varicella (chicken pox): 2 doses

Before starting 7th grade, students must receive:

- Hepatitis B series
- Tetanus booster, total of 4 doses (the last dose being at age 11-12, or later)
- Varicella (chicken pox): 2 doses
- Meningococcal: 1 dose

To be exempt from these immunization requirements, you must provide one of the following:

- Medical contraindication signed by a physician
- Conscientious objection statement form signed by a parent/guardian and notarized

If your child receives immunizations during the school year, please request a copy of the record and submit to the office so we can keep the file current.