

Morris Elementary School COVID-19 Pandemic Parent Guide 2020-2021

Our return to school will look a little different from what you and your student were used to before the COVID-19 pandemic. We will be taking precautions to ensure all staff and students are able to work and learn safely. We know that our families, teachers and students need clear answers on what to expect for the 2020-2021 school year. We will continue to work closely with our health experts to define parameters around what a safe reopening looks like so that our students can remain at school for face-to-face instruction in our school building. These decisions will be based on the best available modeling data on COVID-19 conditions and with guidance from our local and state partners. As health conditions have frequently changed throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have adjusted plans specific to each building to address the needs and safety of our students, families and staff. Thank you for supporting the YSD-1 Returning to School Plan that prioritizes safety and is responsive to the needs of our community. We will continue to update our YSD-1 Returning to School Plan as current information and conditions change and encourage you to visit the Yuma School District web-page for updates frequently.

Morris Elementary School will take the following steps to ensure safety for all students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

PICK-UP/DROP-OFF LOCATIONS

Parents need to drop off students in the MES drop-off lane on the east side of the building on Elm Street. Car riders and walkers will enter through the main entrance, pick up breakfast, if needed, and go to classrooms. Bus drop-off will be located on the west side of the building directly on the playground. Students riding the bus will enter the building through the west playground doors, pick up breakfast, if needed, and go to classrooms. Any student arriving after 7:55 must enter through the main entrance and check in with office staff before going to class.

MASKS

Face masks are an additional step to help slow the spread of COVID-19 when combined with everyday preventive actions and social distancing in public settings. Currently mask mandates do not apply to elementary-age students. Students may choose to wear a mask while at school, but they are not required. When mandated by government agencies, all *adults* are required to wear masks (cloth face coverings) when on school grounds, with the exception of time for eating or other designated “mask breaks” that would take place when not moving about the classroom.

HYGIENE

Students will participate in observed handwashing/sanitizing at regular intervals. All classrooms have supplies of hand sanitizer and/or soap to allow for frequent hand-sanitizing, and classrooms and school facilities will be disinfected regularly.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Students and staff will maintain social distancing in indoor and outdoor settings as much as possible. Within the classroom we will arrange and space desks to promote distancing while maintaining student collaboration and age-appropriate social interaction.

TECHNOLOGY/SUPPLIES

Each student will be assigned a computer while at school. The computer will be sanitized daily. Students will be discouraged from sharing supplies. Any shared supplies in the classroom will be sanitized appropriately.

SCREENING

When in yellow, all adults and students will get a temperature check and symptom screening upon entering the building. Students/staff with a temperature of 100.4 or above will not be able to stay at school. Students and staff should stay home if they are known to be ill (fever, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, abdominal pain, fatigue, muscle aches, headache).

COHORTS

Morris Elementary School students will remain in classroom-level cohorts with the exception of certain ELL, special education, and intervention classes, which are small in size. A cohort is defined as a group of students who participate in a class or other activity. Our goal is to minimize the number of cohorts any one student participates in during the day when under our supervision. Classroom-level cohorts is a requirement when in yellow. MES staff has opted to operate in classroom-level cohorts while in green at the beginning of the school year. This will help to minimize contact with larger groups of people, familiarize students with routines and procedures with less potential for sudden changes, and provide opportunity for teachers and students to build meaningful connections.

RECESS/LUNCH

Students will be kept in their classroom cohorts for recess and lunch. During recess, students are allowed to use and share playground equipment within their cohorts. Only one cohort will be allowed in an outside area at a time, and these areas will rotate daily so all students have opportunities to use all equipment and playground areas.

Cold lunch **MUST** be brought to school by the student. Parents will **NOT** be allowed to bring lunch to school or eat lunch with students at school. Students and staff may **NOT** share food. Meals at MES will be served in the classroom to build consistent routines at the beginning of the school year. Desks and classroom furniture will be sanitized before and after eating, and students will wash/sanitize their hands before and after eating.

SCHOOL VISITORS

Visitors, including parents/guardians, are **NOT** allowed in the building. Parents need to ring the buzzer for assistance or call the front office at 848-5738. When necessary students will be checked out of the building by the office staff and released to the parent/guardian waiting in the foyer/front entrance.