

# Montezuma Community School

504 N. 4th Street  
Montezuma, IA 50171

Phone: 641 623-5121

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September 4, 2020:

Parents/Guardians:

I want to start by saying it has been so great to be back in school and seeing the students and staff embark on our new journey. I am very appreciative to see all the social distancing, mask-wearing, and hand hygiene. This is ultimately what will keep us in school so as much as we can impress this on our students, the better our circumstances will hopefully be.

That being said, this first two weeks has brought attention to the fact that illness guidelines and recommendations need to again be discussed. In years past, a simple stuffy nose, sore throat, headache, and/or mild cough would possibly be dealt with differently under certain circumstances. With our knowledge of the new novel coronavirus, we cannot and should not pardon illness symptoms due to the fact that we know it is spread so easily and quickly.

In that light, please keep your child home with any complaints of illness. Do not send students for fear that they will miss activities or get behind on school work. Accommodations will be made when the time comes to get school work/device accessibility for students to complete work at home. Staff are instructed to follow the same protocol. We know that COVID-19 symptoms can present as a cold, allergies, severe illness or nothing at all. Here is a reminder of the high- vs. low-risk symptoms of COVID-19:

**High Risk:** if any ONE of these symptoms is experienced, students or staff should not come to school

- New cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- New loss of taste or smell

**Low Risk:** if TWO or more symptoms are experienced, students or staff should not come to school

- Sore throat
- Headache
- Fever/chills (it is important to note that fever does not always accompany COVID-19, and regardless of other symptoms students/staff need to remain home with a fever of 100.0 or higher until the fever is resolved for 24 hours without the use of ibuprofen/Tylenol)
- Congestion/runny nose
- Nausea/vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Fatigue/tiredness
- Body aches

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With any of the following symptoms experienced, students and staff are instructed to remain at home for 24-48 hours, away from others to monitor how symptoms progress. It is also important to understand that some people have periods of “ups and downs” and can be positive for COVID-19, meaning one day they are not feeling well, the next day they feel fine, later they feel sick again, etc. If symptoms resolve and there is no known contact of someone testing positive for COVID-19, students and staff are permitted to return to school while continuing to maintain social distance, wear masks or face coverings if able and continue to use frequent hand hygiene. If symptoms do not improve or worsen, it is encouraged that a call be made to the primary medical provider to discuss symptoms and to consider testing for COVID-19. If testing for COVID-19 is done for anyone in the household who is experiencing symptoms, all members of the household should remain at home until test results are known and a plan will be made after results are known.

If symptoms arise during the school day, parents will be notified and students are expected to go home.

Please also remember that COVID-19 can be spread in areas outside of the school setting. Whenever in public areas, it is still strongly encouraged that masks be worn and social distancing guidelines be maintained and hand hygiene be performed frequently.

Thank you for your attention to this health matter and for helping us keep our school community well.

Hannah Dengler, RN/BSN