



# Ivymount

## **Ivymount Organization COVID-19 Policy As of Fall 2022**

The Ivymount Organization, including Ivymount School, Ivymount Outreach Programs, and The Maddux School, pledges to take all appropriate steps to create a safe and healthy educational environment for students, families, and staff.

The level of COVID-19 transmission in the community remains essential to guide our decisions on the degree to which we modify our current operations while implementing layered mitigation. We will base decisions on reliable health sources and adopt universal measures to keep ourselves and our community safe. Our protocols will follow the guidelines the Maryland Department of Health, Montgomery County Health Department and CDC set forth.

### **COVID-19 POSITIVE**

Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 is required to:

Stay home and isolate for at least 5 days AND until symptoms are improving AND the individual has been fever-free without fever-reducing medication for 24 hours. Day 1 is considered the first full day after symptoms began or the first full day after the positive test date if asymptomatic.

Individuals may return to campus on day 6 after submitting a negative rapid test taken the morning of day 6. If the rapid test is positive, they may repeat it the following day and return when they receive a negative result. Individuals may return on day 11, following a full 10-day quarantine, regardless of test results. If returning prior to day 11, based on a negative rapid result the individual must wear a well-fitting mask around others through day 10.

Unmasked times should be minimized as much as possible, and physical distancing/ventilation maximized during these times. Masks should only be removed during eating and naptime. Accommodations may be made for individuals who cannot mask.

### **REPORTING**

Please report positive cases of COVID-19 and household exposure (individual in your household tests positive) immediately:

Families should email [\*\*studentcovidreport@ivymount.org\*\*](mailto:studentcovidreport@ivymount.org)

Staff should email [\*\*staffcovidreport@ivymount.org\*\*](mailto:staffcovidreport@ivymount.org)



## **SYMPTOM SCREENING FOR COVID-19**

Daily symptom screenings remain one of our top strategies to keep the Ivymount campus free of COVID-19 and other illnesses. Individuals should continue to monitor symptoms each morning. Anyone experiencing symptoms should complete two rapid tests in succession and continue testing daily until symptoms resolve or another diagnosis is confirmed. If tests are negative, they may return to campus and should mask until symptoms resolve.

COVID-19 symptoms include: fever of 100.4 degrees or higher, sore throat, cough, difficulty breathing, diarrhea or vomiting, new onset of severe headache, or new loss of taste or smell. Individuals must always stay home for 24 hours when exhibiting a fever, diarrhea (3 occurrences within 24 hours), or vomiting to prevent the spread of all communicable illnesses.

When returning onsite following rapid testing for symptoms, please wear a mask until symptoms resolve.

Weekly onsite screening PCR testing of asymptomatic individuals will no longer be conducted but may be reinstated if COVID-19 community levels increase to the medium or high range. Ivymount continues to acquire rapid test kits through state programs and will provide rapid tests to individuals for screening testing after breaks or as needed for diagnostic purposes. Staff and families should ensure they have additional kits to have at home.

## **CONTACT TRACING**

Consistent with public school systems and CDC/Maryland guidelines, for single COVID-19 cases on our campus, the health team will no longer conduct contact tracing to identify and notify individuals who are close contacts. Instead, messages will be sent out at the classroom or program level to inform the community of positive cases.

In the event of a COVID-19 outbreak, we will identify close contacts of all persons with COVID-19 and provide notification with guidance. Additionally, we will follow any guidance outlined by the Montgomery County Health Department. An outbreak is defined by the MD Dept of Health as three or more laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 cases among students/teachers/staff in a specified group with onsets (or, if asymptomatic, collection dates) within a 14-day period, and who are epidemiologically linked in the school setting, but not household contacts.



## **CLOSE CONTACTS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH COVID-19**

Individuals who have known exposure in school or outside of the school building should wear a mask at school for 10 days and complete testing if symptoms arise. Individuals should also complete rapid or PCR testing 5 days after their last contact.

Our priority is for all students to be in school safely. When possible, close contacts who are unable to mask will be able to return to school with daily rapid testing based on consideration of risk or mitigation factors. In certain cases, individuals who are not able to mask consistently and appropriately around others may be asked to stay home (for at least 5 days after the last close contact with the person with COVID-19, and to return to campus on day 6 after submitting a negative COVID-19 test). Program Directors will work with the health team to assess each situation and create a plan.

Individuals living in the same household with someone who tested positive for COVID-19 should email the health team for guidance, which may include a period of quarantine or follow-up testing.

## **FACE MASKS**

If Montgomery County is at a high COVID-19 Community Level, all individuals ages 2 or older should wear a well-fitting mask indoors. While in the low or medium community levels, face masks are optional for staff, students and families, on the Ivymount campus, unless: exhibiting symptoms, following exposure, returning after a positive case, or as directed by the Health Team or a Program Director due to specific circumstance. Individuals who are immunocompromised or at high risk for severe illness should talk to their healthcare provider about precautions, including wearing a mask at work/school.

Students must still follow mask guidelines set by their LEA for transportation. Masks will be required for visitors who enter the building beyond the main office when students are present (including Ivymount Outreach participants). In addition, when participating in community outings, we will follow all masking guidelines set by public transportation, local businesses, and other community partners.

When masks are required or recommended (returning from quarantine or isolation, visitors), individuals should wear a surgical, KN95, or N95 mask that fits correctly. Staff and students should continue to bring a clean mask to school each day in case it is needed (e.g., desire to wear it, new onset of symptoms, community outings). Ivymount will continue to provide masks for staff and backup masks for students.

We reserve the right to request masks for events or trainings when physical distancing may not be feasible.



## **VACCINATION**

COVID-19 vaccinations continue to be an expectation for eligible individuals. We ask staff and students to receive the recommended vaccination doses and boosters to be considered Up to Date. Staff should upload updated vaccination records to Paycom and families should email updated student vaccination records to: [studentcovidreport@ivymount.org](mailto:studentcovidreport@ivymount.org).

## **RESOURCES**

[Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#)

[Montgomery County \(MD\) Department of Health and Human Services Coronavirus Information](#)

[Virginia Department of Health](#)

[DC Health](#)