

Community Conversations Q&A recap 11.9.2020

Thank you for tuning in to our first of many Community Conversations. We were so pleased to have 355 friends and family members join us to start the conversation! You asked many great questions – 169 of them, to be exact. We have organized and answered the questions by topic. If you do not see an answer to your question, please email your question to communications@mapleton.us.

Capital Improvement Updates

Beginning in January, Mapleton will move away from the traditional construction meeting format in hopes of providing more frequent updates with greater accessibility. Each month, Mapleton will post pre-recorded conversations with design and construction teams providing updates on current and future construction projects. The videos will be accessible at any time from any device with an internet connection. Answers to your questions will be provided during follow up videos or in an ongoing project-specific Q&A document. Questions may be emailed to communications@mapleton.us. Videos will be available on our [Capital Improvement webpage](#).

Board of Education Meetings

Mapleton's Board of Education meetings are open to the public. For a list of upcoming meeting dates and times, visit www.mapleton.us.

Digital Thermometers

If you are in need of a digital thermometer, please email OttS@mapleton.us to arrange a pick-up time and location.

School Support

Taking an active role in your child's education is one of the best ways to positively impact your child's school. You don't have to be in your child's school to support the school or your child's education. School support includes everything from reading with your child, playing learning games and activities, participating in district events like Mapleton Reads, the science fair, and the art show, and attending school and district parent engagement meetings. For more information and opportunities please contact your school director.

Second Semester Learning Platform

Hopefully by now all families have had a chance to take our Second Semester Learning Platform survey. The results from this survey will be given to schools at the end of November and used to plan for the learning platforms that will meet the needs of their school community as we move into second semester. We anticipate this will include in-person and remote learning offered at school sites, in addition to Mapleton Online. Your school director will be in touch in December with additional information to help you make the best choice for you and your family.

Response to COVID-19

Tracking and Dashboard

When schools are open for in-person learning, Mapleton will maintain a COVID-19 dashboard to provide an accurate picture of the state of public health in Mapleton. This dashboard tracks all student and staff cases in the district, both in-person and online. Active tracking of cases impacting schools and student cohorts will resume in January when we welcome students back to in-person learning.

Mapleton's response to the pandemic is managed by a COVID Response Team. On the team is the Superintendent, Deputy Superintendents, and other central administration staff who meet daily to review cases and data, as well as check in with school directors on health, wellness, and case management. The team also stays in daily contact with Tri-County Health epidemiologists to track cases and respond quickly and appropriately.

COVID Testing

Mapleton partners with COVIDCheck Colorado to provide free testing to all staff and family members. In November, the program will expand to include free testing for family members of employees, and in December, the partnership will expand to include students.

Almost all staff members in Mapleton have been tested at least once, and more than half are tested regularly.

When testing becomes available for students, testing will be completely optional and parent permission will be required. Stay tuned for more information.

Symptom monitoring and safety

Keeping children home from school when they are sick is one of the most important things parents can do to help keep our schools safe and open.

We encourage our families to follow the recommendations from the [Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment \(CDPHE\)](#) on when it is too sick to go to school, work, or childcare.

Completing a simple health screening every morning can help determine if your child should go to school or stay home. In addition to the COVID-19 health screening, if your child is vomiting, showing 'flu-like' symptoms, has diarrhea, or has severe uncontrolled coughing/wheezing, it is best to keep them home from school.

Students who become sick at school will be sent to the nurses' office and isolated from other students who are in the clinic for routine reasons (i.e. first aid, medication, other regular treatments). Students who are sick must be promptly picked up from school. School nurses will actively monitor school attendance to understand potential trends in symptoms/reasons for student illness or absence(s).

Our Integrated Services team will be trained in contact-tracing to assist in identifying students, families, or schools with any concerns.

Criteria for school closure

Mapleton Public Schools follows the [CDPHE criteria for school and district closures](#).

The district's announcement to finish the first semester online was not a result of cases within schools, rather a response to the surge in cases locally and the likelihood of new restrictions from Tri-County Health.

Transmission within schools

When our protocols are followed and layers of protection are implemented, we have seen little to no transmission of COVID-19 from student to student, student to staff, or staff to staff within the school setting. As we do with all positive cases, we worked closely with Tri-County Health Department to implement a quick and proactive response that includes contact tracing, identifying and quarantining close contacts, and tracking and monitoring symptoms. Tri-County Health also works with us to determine a date for the cohorts to safely return to in-person learning.

Transparency within schools

When we receive notification about a positive case in our school, we immediately begin working with Tri-County Health Department and the District's COVID Response Team to isolate the person with COVID-19, identify and quarantine close contacts, and monitor the situation carefully and continuously. Families of students that are identified as close contacts are notified immediately by a member of the York International School leadership team.

It is important for us to remember that children are greatly influenced by the reactions of adults when facing difficult circumstances. To help protect the privacy of the individual and to prevent unnecessary alarm, we only contact impacted families. By doing so, we can encourage and maintain empathic and respectful responses to those affected and cause minimal disruption to the learning environment.

Siblings of a student in quarantine

Per Tri-County Health Department, siblings of quarantined students are allowed to continue to go to school as they are not considered close contacts to the individual who tested positive. A student in quarantine should be monitored for fever and symptoms for 14 days. If symptoms develop, families should consult with a health care provider and consider testing.

Mask requirements

Students and staff are required to wear face masks as much as possible given the developmental appropriateness of the child, especially when in hallways, restrooms, and when in proximity to students from other classes/cohorts. "Mask breaks" are built into every student's schedule.