



COVID-19 Preparedness Plan

and

Return to the Office Plan

June 2022

Introduction

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all workers and customers. To ensure a safe and healthy workplace, MDE's COVID-19 Preparedness Plan and Return to the Office Plan were developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Everyone is responsible for complying with the requirements and implementing the plan. Our goal is to mitigate the potential for transmission of COVID-19 in our workplace and communities, and that requires full cooperation among employees, management, and customers. Only through this cooperative effort can we establish and maintain the safety and health of employees and the workplace.

The MDE has developed this **CO**rona**VI**rus **D**isease **2019** (COVID-19) Preparedness & Response Plan in accordance with the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's \(CDC\)](#) latest guidance and the [MIOSHA General Duty Clause](#), which requires the employer to furnish each employee with "a place of employment that is free from recognized hazards.

The purpose of this plan is to eliminate or minimize potential exposure to and the transmission of COVID-19 in the workplace based on CDC guidance. All employees are responsible for complying with all applicable aspects of this plan. This written plan is available to all employees via the intranet and upon request. Questions about this plan should be directed to Joetta Parker, Human Resources Director, at parkerj2@michigan.gov, or Ruben Limas, Jr., MDE Safety Coordinator, at limusr1@michigan.gov.

Exposure Determination

The MDE has evaluated routine and reasonably anticipated tasks and procedures for all employees to determine whether there is actual or reasonably anticipated employee exposure to COVID-19. The MDE has determined that all office positions, jobs, or tasks fall into the medium or lower (caution) exposure risk levels. This determination is consistent with the U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) [Hazard Recognition/Clarifying Risk of Worker Exposure to COVID-19](#).

Medium Exposure Risk: Jobs that require either frequent close contact (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) or sustained close contact with other people in areas with community transmission. *Because any given person may be an asymptomatic carrier, an employee's exposure risk may increase when they have repeated, prolonged contact with other people in these situations, particularly where physical distancing and other infection prevention measures may not be possible or are not robustly implemented and consistently followed.*

Lower (caution) Exposure Risk: Jobs that do not require close contact (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with other people. Employees in this category have minimal occupational contact with the public and other coworkers.

Risk Determinations within MDE:

Positions/Job/Task	Exposure Determination	Qualifying Factors
Medium or lower risk jobs include camp consultant, resident care aide, resident care aide supervisor, special education teacher, school principal, department manager, interpreter, audiology/speech consultant, general office assistant, storekeeper, library technician, library assistant, librarian, library consultant, education field services consultant, department analyst, state administrative manager, state office administrator, superintendent, chief deputy superintendent, and deputy superintendent.	Medium or Lower	Jobs that require frequent/close contact with people who may be infected, but who are not known or suspected patients. Workers in this category include those who may have contact with the general public (e.g., schools, high-density work environments, some high-volume retail settings), including individuals returning from locations with widespread COVID-19 transmission. Per the CDC, fully vaccinated employees (non-healthcare workers) likely fall into the lower COVID-19 risk level.
Lower risk jobs include all office staff (majority of the department), consultant, secretary, SEMA, manager, analyst, technician, specialist, communication representative, auditor, state assistant administrator, graphic arts designer, supervisor, state office administrator, student assistant, unclassified, student assistant, state worker, buyer.	Lower	Jobs that do not require contact with people known to be, or suspected of being, infected. Workers in this category have minimal occupational contact with the public and other coworkers. Per the CDC, fully vaccinated employees (non-healthcare workers) likely fall into the lower COVID-19 risk level.

Per the CDC, employees are best protected when they are up to date with their COVID-19 vaccination. In general, employees are up to date on their COVID-19 vaccination if they have received all recommended doses in the primary series and one booster when eligible. Getting a second booster is not necessary to be considered up to date at this time.

Engineering Controls

The MDE has implemented feasible engineering controls to minimize or eliminate employee exposure to COVID-19. Engineering controls involve isolating employees from work-related hazards using ventilation and other engineered solutions (e.g., restrict office access, situate employees with their computers facing inward and away from cubicle doors or aiseways, use of high cubicle walls/panels or other barriers, enclosed offices, etc.).

Administrative Controls

Administrative controls are workplace policies, procedures and practices that minimize or eliminate employee exposure to the hazard. The following administrative controls have been established for the MDE.

Position/Task	Administrative Controls
All Employees	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="483 1682 1430 1755">1. Employees are required to self-monitor for COVID-19 signs and symptoms prior to leaving for the workplace. <li data-bbox="483 1755 1430 1896">2. Employees who experience a new onset of COVID-19 symptoms that cannot otherwise be attributed to an alternate diagnosis or negative COVID-19 test must contact their supervisor and Human Resources Director for further direction and follow-up.

Position/Task	Administrative Controls
	3. Employees who do not pass the screening criteria will be instructed to contact their supervisor, not report to work, and may use appropriate leave credits or lost time. Employees who don't pass the screening criteria due to a positive COVID-19 test or exposure should contact their Human Resources Director.
	4. Employees who experience COVID-19 symptoms at work should notify their supervisor immediately and will not be permitted to stay at work. The Michigan Civil Service Commission (MCSC) and collective bargaining agreements have leave policies in place that promote workers staying at home when they are sick, when household members are sick, or when required by a health care provider to isolate or quarantine themselves or a member of their household. Eligible employees have access to paid sick and annual leave and unpaid medical, and FMLA leaves.
	5. Employees are subject to a health screening upon arrival at the workplace.
	6. Employees are required to promptly report any signs and symptoms of COVID-19 to the Human Resources Director during work to their supervisor.
	7. Employees are encouraged to wash or sanitize their hands before coming to work, upon entering the building and regularly throughout the workday.
	8. Flexible/alternate work schedules, remote work, or a combination of remote work/in-office work may be considered on a case-by-case basis. These options are neither a benefit nor an entitlement; they are subject to agency business/operational needs and may be ended by the Director or Human Resources Director anytime for any reason.
	9. Use of videoconferencing or teleconferencing for meetings and gatherings will be considered regardless of teleworking or being in the office.
	10. Employees who have been exposed to a person with COVID-19 at the workplace and requiring quarantine will be instructed by the Human Resources Director as to next steps. The employee's health status, health information or COVID-19-related exposure information will be kept confidential to the extent possible.

Hand Hygiene and Disinfection of Work Surfaces

Frequent handwashing is one of the best ways employees can protect themselves from getting sick. To prevent the spread of germs during the COVID-19 pandemic, employees should wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol to clean hands BEFORE and AFTER:

- Blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- Entering and leaving a public place or work area.

- Preparing or eating food.
- Touching a potentially contaminated surface or object, such as a door handle, table, etc.
- Touching garbage.
- Touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Touching your face covering.
- Using the restroom.

When the provision of handwashing facilities is not feasible, the MDE will provide employees with antiseptic hand sanitizers or towelettes.

The virus that causes COVID-19 can land on work surfaces. While the risk of infection from touching a surface is low, regular housekeeping practices have been implemented for the routine cleaning and disinfecting of elevators, restrooms, breakrooms, conference/meeting rooms, training rooms, doorknobs, and other high touch areas.

CDC guidance will be followed for special cleaning and disinfecting when someone in the office or when someone visited the office has tested positive for COVID-19.

Appropriate and effective cleaning and disinfectant supplies have been purchased and are available for use in accordance with product labels, safety data sheets and manufacturer specifications and are being used with required personal protective equipment for the product.

Please refer to the Department of Technology, Management and Budget/[DTMB Return to Office Plan, State Workplace Guidelines](#) for any additional cleaning and disinfection criteria.

Face Coverings and Other Personal Protective Equipment

Face coverings/masks are generally no longer required while working in an office setting or outdoors subject to some considerations:

- ❖ Masking may still be required in high-risk congregate settings, such as long-term-care, healthcare, and correctional facilities, or in response to accommodation requests.
- ❖ Agencies may have additional policies to address specific operational needs, visitors and clients, employee tasks, work locations, or quarantine or isolation.
- ❖ Local health departments and organizations may adopt other masking requirements to be followed.
- ❖ Employees who are at elevated risk or feel better protected may mask consistent with operational needs.
- ❖ State masking requirements may be updated in the future as conditions evolve.

The MDE will provide employees with any required personal protective equipment or clothing (PPE) for the protection from COVID-19 appropriate to the exposure risk associated with the job following the CDC and OSHA guidance. All types of PPE are to be:

- ❖ Selected based upon the hazard to the employee.
- ❖ Properly fitted and periodically refitted as applicable.
- ❖ Consistently and properly worn when required.

- ❖ Regularly inspected, maintained, and replaced, as necessary.
- ❖ Properly removed, cleaned, stored, or disposed of as applicable to avoid contamination of self, others, or the environment.

The following type(s) of PPE have been selected for use:

Positions/job/task	PPE
All MDE positions	None currently

For the purposes of this plan, a nonmedical cloth face covering is NOT considered PPE

Note: Some exceptions may apply; exceptions are NOT automatic. Reasonable accommodations may be available to qualified applicants and employees with disabilities. Employees requesting an exception MUST contact the [Agency ADA Title I Reasonable Accommodation Coordinator](#) to initiate the reasonable accommodation/disability accommodation process.

Employees may provide and use their own face coverings/masks, consistent with operational needs. Face coverings worn in the workplace shall NOT be political, offensive or contain vulgar, obscene, abusive, or confrontational gestures, language, pictures, websites, etc. Face coverings representing certain colleges, universities, sports teams, etc. are permissible provided they meet the above-mentioned criteria.

Carpool and Rideshares

The following protective measures are required whenever two or more persons share either a state vehicle or personal vehicle for work purposes:

- Stay home when sick.
- Increase the fresh air intake via the vents or by slightly opening the windows.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces in the vehicle at the beginning and end of each shift, and after an occupant becomes sick. AGENCIES USING VTS MOTOR POOL VEHICLES. Vehicle and Travel Services (VTS) has advised that drivers using motor pool cars should bring agency-provided wipes to clean and disinfect frequently touched vehicle surfaces at the beginning and end of each shift, as they no longer provide these supplies or clean between uses. Motor pool cars are typically assigned and rotated based on operational need with the vehicle sitting the longest being the assigned first, etc.

Travel

All international business travel must be approved by the Office of the State Employer (OSE). Requests are to be submitted through the completion of an [online form](#) and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. OSE determinations or requests for additional information will be returned to the individual submitting the online form. A separate request must be submitted for each employee traveling.

To maximize employee protections and potentially prevent the spreading of COVID-19 to others, all persons traveling on behalf of the MDE will follow the latest CDC guidance for domestic and international business travel.

All domestic and international business travel should be delayed until employees are up to date with their COVID-19 vaccination.

Feeling Sick and Sick Employees

Employees should **stay home** and contact their immediate supervisor and healthcare provider if they have a fever, cough, or other symptoms, or believe they might have COVID-19. Employees should contact the Human Resources Director and their immediate supervisor if they, a family member, or someone they live with tests positive for COVID-19 so they can trace and monitor others with whom they have been in close contact while at work. The evaluation of a work-related exposure incident, follow up, and coordination of proper cleaning and disinfecting activities will be conducted by the Human Resources Director, who will follow-up with building management if appropriate.

Daily Health Screenings/Health Surveillance

All employees, contractors, interns, or other persons conducting work on behalf of the MDE will be required to participate in daily health screenings upon their return to the workplace. These health screenings are comprised of COVID-related questions about symptoms and suspected or confirmed exposure to people with possible COVID-19.

These health screenings can occur through one or more ways (e.g., paper questionnaire, COVID screening app using a state-issued electronic device, [web-based questionnaire](#) using a personal or state-issued cell phone, or by an employee swiping their employee identification badge/access card to enter restricted areas such as parking lots, buildings, rooms, locked storage areas, etc.).

Note: each time an employee logs onto a state-provided electronic device or swipes their identification/badge to access a secure site or area the person affirms they are symptom-free and feeling well.

Persons exhibiting signs of illness will not be permitted into the building.

Close Contacts and When to Quarantine

Employees who are up to date with their vaccinations (have received all recommended doses in the primary series and one booster when eligible) or who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days do NOT need to quarantine after contact with someone who has COVID-19 unless they have symptoms. However, employees who have not tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 90 days should get tested 5 days after their exposure, even if they do not have symptoms, and follow other applicable CDC guidance.

Employees who are not up to date with their COVID-19 vaccination should quarantine if they have been in close contact (within 6 feet of someone for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone who has COVID-19. Quarantine is about keeping employees

who might have been exposed to COVID-19 away from others. Report COVID-19 exposure(s) to the Human Resources Director and follow their instructions.

Local public health authorities often determine and establish the quarantine options for their jurisdictions. Please contact the Human Resources Director with any questions.

Training

All employees, contractors, interns, or other persons conducting work on behalf of the MDE must successfully complete the OSE's "COVID-19: Keeping You Safe at Work" training, which can be found out on the [Civil Service Learning Center](#). This training is in addition to any building-specific training needed to ensure compliance with applicable training requirements and/or COVID-related best practices. Training shall minimally include but is not limited to:

- ❖ Routes by which the virus causing COVID-19 is spread.
- ❖ Symptoms of a COVID-19 infection.
- ❖ Steps employees must take if they have a fever, cough or other symptoms, or believe they might have COVID-19 (e.g., stay home; call their immediate supervisor and healthcare provider; notify their Human Resources Director if the employee, a family member, or someone the employee lives with tests positive for COVID-19 so the agency can contact trace and monitor others with whom the employee had been in close contact while at work; etc.).
- ❖ The risk of a COVID-19 exposure.
- ❖ Measures that the building has taken, and work rules employees must follow to prevent exposure (e.g, hand hygiene, routine cleaning and disinfection, use of cloth face coverings and other personal protective equipment, travel restrictions, daily health screenings, close contact and when to quarantine, building signage, etc.).
- ❖ Resources available (e.g., Employee Service Program).

NOTE: It is recommended that employee training records minimally contain the name(s) of employee(s) trained, date of training, name of trainer and content of training.

Recordkeeping

All MDE COVID-19 related records (e.g., health screenings, training records, etc.) will be kept in accordance with applicable MDE record retention requirements.

All MDE related records and COVID-19 exposures will be reported and recorded as required by MIOSHA Standard [Part 11: Recording and Reporting of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses](#). For more information, refer to OSHA's Updated Interim Enforcement Response Plan for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) or [29 CFR 1904.39\(a\)-\(b\)\(11\)](#).

COVID-19 Safe Start Team

The MDE Safe Start Team shall minimally be comprised of the Superintendent, Chief Deputy Superintendent, Deputy Superintendents, Chiefs of Staff, Special Assistant to the State Superintendent, Office of Public and Governmental Affairs Director, and Office of Human Resources Director. Other MDE employees may be assigned special duties on a case-by-case

basis.

The MDE Safe Start Team will be responsible for establishing and implementing return to workplace goals, reviewing and updating the MDE COVID-19 Preparedness & Response Plan, and identifying best practices and improvement needs stemming from agency communications, engineering and administrative work practice controls, and protective measures used during the pandemic.

COVID-19 Safety Coordinator(s)

MDE's COVID-19 Safety Coordinator is Ruben Limas, Jr., limasr1@michigan.gov. The coordinator will monitor or report on implemented COVID-19 control strategies required for the workplace as needed or requested.

Support and Resources

Employees having difficulty transitioning back to in-person office work or who are experiencing other personal or professional challenges are encouraged to access resources provided by the [Employee Service Program \(ESP\)](#) website or contact ESP at 800-521-1377 or MCSC-ESP@mi.gov. Additional health and safety-related resources can be found below:

- ❖ [State of Michigan Agency/Department Return to Work Plans](#)
- ❖ [CDC COVID-19 Resources \(e.g., vaccines, boosters, possible side effects, etc.\)](#)
- ❖ [MDHHS Coronavirus Resources: www.mi.gov/coronavirus](http://www.mi.gov/coronavirus)
- ❖ Michigan.gov/coronavirus (e.g., emergency rules, epidemic orders, etc.)
- ❖ [MIOSHA COVID-19 Resources \(e.g., workplace safety documents, emergency rules, etc.\)](#)
- ❖ [MIOSHA General Industry Safety & Health Standards](#)
- ❖ [OSHA COVID-19 Resources \(e.g., requirements, guidance, tools, etc.\)](#)
- ❖ [MIOSHA Emergency Rules](#)
- ❖ Any applicable [State of Michigan Executive Orders & Directives](#)

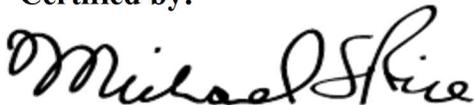
Miscellaneous

Please refer to the [DTMB Return to Office Plan, State Workplace Guidelines](#) for any additional requirements.

MDE reserves the right to change or amend strategies in accordance with the latest state and federal guidance, regulation, and policies.

Certified by:

Date: June 30, 2022



Michael F. Rice, Ph.D., State Superintendent
Michigan Department of Education