



Ivymount

Ivymount Organization COVID-19 Policy As of March 20, 2023

The Ivymount Corporation, 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 an important factor 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 set forth by the Maryland Department of Health, Montgomery County Health Department and CDC.

POLICY UPDATES

If Montgomery County is at a high COVID-19 Community Level, all individuals ages 2 or older should wear a well-fitting mask indoors.

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 in order to be considered Up to Date.

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.

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. As always, individuals must 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.



COVID-19 POSITIVE

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

Stay home and isolate for at 5 days. Day 1 is considered the first full day after symptoms started or the first full day after the positive test date if asymptomatic.

Individuals who can effectively mask may return to campus on day 6, with no further testing. Wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days. 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. Individuals who cannot mask can return if they show proof of two consecutive days of negative rapid tests on day 6 or after.

REPORTING

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

Families should email studentcovidreport@ivymount.org
Staff should email staffcovidreport@ivymount.org

CONTACT TRACING

Consistent with public school systems and with CDC/Maryland guidelines, for single COVID-19 cases on our campus, the health team will no longer conduct contact tracing to identify and individually 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 a 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 are still required to 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).

When participating in community outings, we will follow all masking guidelines set by public transportation, local businesses, and other community partners.

In situations where 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 at any time for events or trainings when physical distancing may not be feasible.

RESOURCES

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

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

[Virginia Department of Health](#)

[DC Health](#)