



Dear MSA Community,

Since the school year began in August of 2020, we have continued to learn more about COVID-19 and guidance regarding public activities – including school – has continued to evolve. We now have vaccines which are being made available, with the hope that many will have access to vaccine by this summer.

In February, the MSA Board of Directors decided to open MSA to partial in-person learning, beginning April 5, 2021. With this in mind, and considering the new guidance from Governor Walz, the MDH, and the MDE, our school has developed this decision-making model to assist us as we transition from a strictly distance-learning scenario. It is my hope that this guide will be useful to you as we transition to partial in-person learning.

Safety is our number-one priority at MSA, and be assured we have strict safety measures in place. However, we also recognize that there may be instances where MSA must close to in-person learning and temporarily revert back to distance learning. This guide is meant to assist you to understand the data we will be reviewing on a weekly basis as these decisions are made.

As we close out the 2020-2021 academic year, we are currently planning to implement one of two learning models: partial in-person (hybrid) or distance learning. As things continue to evolve and vaccine becomes more widely available, full in-person learning may become an option. However, it has always been our strategy to err on the side of safety, and we will expand our in-person learning opportunities only when the data and guidelines support such a decision.

Weekly Considerations

Our week-to-week determination to conduct classes either partially in-person or via distance learning will take into consideration the following data:

1. MSA Staff and Student COVID-19 Rates;
2. Safety Protocols;
3. State Regulations and Restrictions; and
4. Washington County COVID-19 Rates.

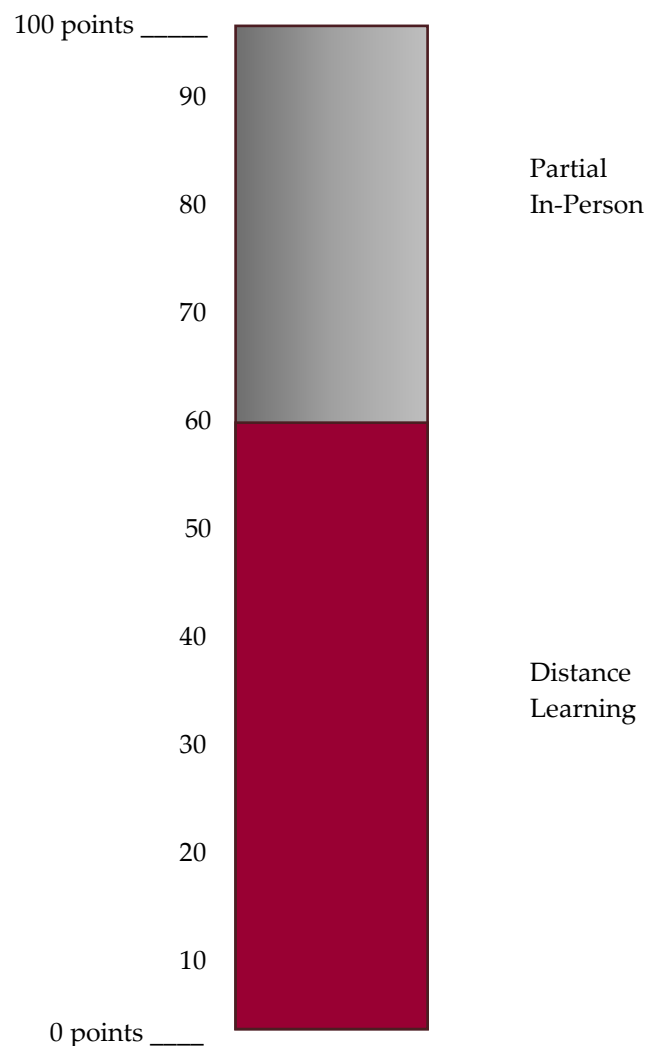
This data will be reviewed every Thursday, with results communicated to the MSA community every Friday, so that a decision can be made with regard to the appropriate learning model for the following week. The data will be assigned points which we will then compile into an overall total which will indicate which learning model is the most appropriate. The data points are listed below in the order of importance and will serve as a general guideline:

- 1. MSA Staff and Student COVID-19 Rates (35 points):** Goal of 3% or fewer current positive COVID-19 among staff and in-person students.
 - 0% - 1.0% = 35 points
 - 1.1% - 2.0% = 25 points
 - 2.1% - 3.0% = 15 points
 - More than 3.0% = 0 points
- 2. Safety Protocols (30 points):** One time per week an unannounced inspection of safety protocols by our Covid Coordinator will be conducted. 95% adherence is the expectation.
 - 95% - 100% = 30 points
 - 90% - 94% = 20 points
 - 85% - 89% = 10 points
 - 84% and below = 0 points
- 3. State Regulations and Restriction (20 points):** The current state restrictions will factor into the decision-making process.
 - No restrictions (mask only) = 20 points
 - Some restrictions (max cap. 25% or higher) = 10 points
 - Full restrictions = 0 points
- 4. Washington County COVID-19 Rates (15 points):**
 - 0 – 19 cases per 10,000 = 15 points
 - 20 – 29 per 10,000 = 10 points
 - 30 and above = 0 points



With 100 points possible, below are the various learning scenarios and their point values:

Partial In-Person: 60-100 points
Distance Learning: 0-59 points



Daily Considerations

In addition, MSA will be considering its staffing needs daily. If MSA will not be fully staffed, for whatever reason, partial in-person learning may not be possible. Therefore, if it is determined by 5:00 a.m. on a school day that 1 or greater teacher positions will be unfilled, the school will transition to a distance learning scenario. Therefore, our community is encouraged to sign up for Skyward Alert and to watch local morning news broadcasts for information should the school need to transition to a distance learning scenario. This process is similar to when a snow day is declared.

General Guidelines for Distance-Learning Days:

- Staff has flexibility to determine whether to work on site or from home any time distance learning is implemented
- Classroom monitors need not report to work in the event distance learning is implemented
- Office staff must be present on-site during distance learning to assist students who may need to pick up materials

I wish to commend the entire MSA Community on the resilience shown during these unprecedented times. I am optimistic as we transition to this hybrid model, and I look forward seeing students and staff in the buildings again.

John Gawarecki - Executive Director

Points Toward Learning Model Decision

