

## MITCH HYBRID/CDL FAQ

Some of the questions below came up in parent survey results. **The answers are a part of a living document that is subject to change as conditions and state mandates shift. Recent updates are noted in green, italicized font.** We will do our best to keep our families apprised of any changes that may affect our community.

### **1. In January, the majority of the school chose CDL/LIPI. Why another survey? If these survey results are the same, will anything change?**

On March 5th, Governor Kate Brown ordered that all schools in Oregon transition to **hybrid** as their **primary instructional model**. You can read her executive order [here](#). Schools are no longer able to make their own decisions in the instructional model that they choose to provide for their families. In light of this mandate, MITCH will be providing the hybrid option to all families that are able to attend. For families that wish to remain in CDL, that option will still be available.

### **2. What will the new hybrid schedule be?**

The hybrid and cdl schedules will be aligned to maintain as much instructional continuity and community connection as possible. Hybrid students will come to the school two days a week from 8am to 1:30pm. They will have school in-person at MITCH on Mondays and Wednesdays or Tuesdays and Thursdays.

*The other two days are a blend of remote instruction and independent work. This varies grade to grade and teachers will communicate the details of the remote days with families.* Fridays will be online for all, the details of what Friday will look like still need to be worked out. It will include the virtual assembly and a classroom meet-up.

### **3. Can I pick which days my child comes in for hybrid in-person instruction?**

Unfortunately, no. There are many variables to control. We are trying to preserve existing teacher-student relationships and teachers are already assigned to specific days. We are aiming to have all siblings on the same day.

### **4. What will the new CDL schedule be?**

CDL students will stay on a similar schedule to the current one. CDL students will be in distance learning from 8am to 1:30pm Monday through Thursday. The amount of instructional time for both hybrid and CDL students is very comparable. Friday's schedule is still being worked on for both hybrid and CDL.

### **5. What will be the first day of the new schedule?**

The governor has mandated that in-person learning begin the week of March 29. **At MITCH, we will host our first in-person cohort on Wednesday March 31.**

When we return from spring break, we will have two days of regular CDL for all students in the same format as we are doing now. **Both Monday (3/29) and Tuesday (3/30) school will end at NOON as teachers will complete their training and preparation.**

## **6. Will teacher assignments stay the same?**

We will do our best to maintain current teacher assignments. This new hybrid/cdl model will enable more students to stay with their teachers, but that will not be true for every case. Our priority in reassigning will be to place siblings in cohorts with matching schedules. We will communicate any changes to families before spring break.

## **7. Does my HYBRID student need to be current on their immunization?**

February 17th was Immunization Exclusion Day. Due to distance learning, this did not affect school attendance. However, now that we are returning to in-person learning, children who are not up to date with their immunizations will be excluded from participating in on-campus learning and/or activities until they have provided up to date information. Parents of children that were missing immunizations were sent a letter from the state. This does not include COVID-19 vaccines for children. Please contact Heather W for questions by calling the school or emailing her at [schooloffice@mitchcharterschool.org](mailto:schooloffice@mitchcharterschool.org)

## **8. What are the physical requirements to return to the building?**

### **Entry Screening: .**

- **At-home health screenings must be performed** by the student's guardian each day before attending school in-person.
- Health screenings will be conducted again when entering the **bus** and **school building**
- Daily logs will be maintained to ensure contact tracing among the cohorts and staff.

### **Isolation and Quarantine:**

- Students and staff will be directed to **stay at home if they have COVID-like symptoms**
- If a student comes to school and begins to experience symptoms, they will be brought to a specific **COVID health room** and family will be contacted for pick-up.

### **Air Flow and Ventilation:**

- **HVAC** update has been conducted to meet CDC requirements.
- Each classroom in session will be equipped with a **HEPA air purifier**.

### **Cohorting:**

- **Stable cohorts** must be maintained to reduce transmission.
- Cohorts may not exceed the available physical space in the room, while allowing 35 square feet per student and teacher.

### **Hand Washing and Cleaning/Disinfecting:**

- **Hand hygiene** on entry to school every day: wash with soap and water for 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with 60-95% alcohol.
- **Cleaning and sanitizing surfaces** must be maintained between multiple student uses, even in the same cohort.
- **Eliminate shared community supplies** (e.g. scissors, pencils, etc.)

#### Face Coverings:

- **Face coverings** are required for all students in K-5, including staff.
- Face shields are an acceptable alternative only when a student has a medical condition that prevents them from wearing a mask or face covering. That must be documented and communicated to Heather Johnston.
- Face coverings should be **worn both indoors and outdoors**, including during outdoor recess.
- If face coverings are worn, they should be **washed daily** or a new covering worn daily.

#### Physical Distancing:

- Establish a **minimum of 35 square feet** per person at all times, including the teacher.
- Support **6 feet of physical distancing** in all daily activities and instruction.

### 9. What will lunch look like?

Lunch will be conducted in the safest manner possible. Students will continue to bring their own lunches to school. Microwaves will not be available at this time. Please send your student to school with a lunch that they can open on their own to enable teachers and students to maintain 6 feet of distance. On days that we cannot eat outside, lunch will be eaten in students' core classroom at their desks. 35 square feet of distance will be maintained. Students will be required to face the front of the room and asked not to talk while their masks are off. Teachers will coordinate with students by playing an educational video during lunch and using positive behavioral interventions to engage safe student behavior.

### 10. What will recess look like?

Recess and movement breaks will be conducted throughout the day, while maintaining 35 square feet of distance per student. Masks will be required at all times, even while outside. All recess equipment must be sanitized between student uses, even within the same cohort. *Due to staffing capacity, the playground structure will remain off limits until further notice. Recess breaks will be 20 minutes per class. Each class will have one recess per week with Mrs. Hill, our PE teacher.*

### 11. What will happen to specials?

Specials like PE, Art and Music will likely stay virtual through Quarter 3 in order to meet state cohorting requirements. *The specifics of Agriculture class are still being worked out, but the solution will serve both CDL and Hybrid students for Quarter 4.*

### 12. How will TTSD busses work?

For hybrid students who live in the Tigard-Tualatin School District a shuttle bus will be available. Parents will drop off and pick their student up from Metzger, Durham or Deer Creek Elementary School. Only 20 students can ride a bus, so seats will be limited. New regulations allow one child per seat.

*Students MUST have filled out a Daily Home Screening Survey BEFORE boarding the bus. Bus drivers are required to do a visual screening of students, similar to what is explained in the carline section.*

### **13. How will carline work?**

*Families will receive carline numbers and lane assignments asap. It will be conducted similarly to previous years.*

*Every morning before coming to school, families MUST submit a Daily Home Screening Survey. A link can be found on the MITCH website, or down below.*

Carline will begin at the back of the building at 7:45am. It will be managed by MITCH staff because we cannot have volunteers. Students must stay in their cars until *visually* screened by a MITCH employee. If the student has passed the Daily Home Screening and the student *is displaying* no COVID-like symptoms, they will be visually screened and then escorted into the building, where they will sanitize their hands and proceed to their classroom.

### **14. Will the assembly stay the same?**

Yes, the assembly will remain in virtual format on Fridays for all students and their families to view, however the time may change. Throughout the year many families have expressed the value of the assembly. We are prioritizing continuing this weekly celebration of our students.

### **15. Do you need your desks back?**

We need *SOME of them* back. Currently, we have loaned the majority of our desks to families. If you are attending hybrid in-person and are able to return your student or students' desk(s), we would be very grateful to provide seating for them at the school. This seating will enable us to better enforce the distancing measures we are obligated to adhere by the state. **Please plan on returning desks Thursday March 18 from 3:00-7:00**

### **16. Why are you not going back to full time in-person this year?**

For the 2020-21 school year, all schools in Oregon are mandated to maintain physical distancing (35 square feet) in hybrid or full-time in-person learning. This limits the available space schools have to host students. We are also *required by the state* to provide a CDL option for our families that cannot attend in person. In order for MITCH to adhere to physical distancing rules and provide both a hybrid and CDL option, we are limited to part-time in-person solutions for the rest of this school year. Our sponsoring district, Tigard Tualatin School District, is providing four half-days of in-person instruction

for elementary students and a CDL option. Should the physical distancing mandate change, we will be able to shift our instructional model accordingly.

### **17. Will there be a COVID protocol that requires parents to disclose any exposure to COVID-19 positive cases at home or during social interactions?**

**Yes. There will be training *materials* for families in the hybrid model that will be sent out in advance of our return to school. We will keep families updated on its ETA.**

As indicated in the question, the safety of our community depends on the individual and collective behaviors of our community members. Specific guidance on at-home screening protocols, response protocols to potential COVID-19 symptoms, and the appropriate quarantine timeline response will be made available very soon. **As a part of the at-home COVID screening protocols, every morning before coming to school, families will be required to conduct a Daily Home Screening Survey to answer the following three questions.** If you or your student answers YES to any of these questions, *or is experiencing any COVID-like symptoms described in the list below*, DO NOT bring your student to school.

1. Within the past 14 days, has your student been in close physical contact (6 feet or closer for a cumulative total of 15 minutes) with:
  - Anyone who is known to have laboratory-confirmed COVID-19?
  - OR
  - Anyone who has any symptoms consistent with COVID-19?
2. Is anyone in your household isolating or quarantining because they may have been exposed to a person with COVID-19?
3. Is anyone in your household currently waiting on the results of a COVID-19 test?
4. *Does your child have any of the following symptoms?*
  - a. *Temperature 100.4 F or higher*
  - b. *New loss of taste or smell*
  - c. *Cough (for students with chronic cough due to allergies or asthma, a change in their cough from baseline)*
  - d. *Sore throat*
  - e. *Difficulty breathing (for students with asthma, a change from their baseline breathing)*
  - f. *New onset of severe headache, especially with a fever greater than 100.4*

Families participating in the **hybrid model** are required to sign a **Community Agreement to return to in-person learning**. This document addresses behavioral expectations and responses necessary to protect community safety during COVID-19. If a student(s) shows any signs of illness, they will need to stay home. If anyone in the family has a confirmed or presumptive case of COVID, the student(s) must stay home.

From TTSD: "Anyone who has had exposure to a person positive for COVID will be required to quarantine for 14 days unless they have been fully immunized with a COVID-19 vaccine, and are at least 14 days beyond completion of the vaccine series at the time of their exposure.

Fully-immunized close contacts should still monitor themselves for symptoms of COVID-19 during the 14 days after exposure, and if symptoms develop they should isolate and seek testing.”

“Staff will be advised not to work, and parents not to bring their students to school, if the student or staff member has or recently had an illness with fever or cough. They should remain home for at least 10 days after illness onset and until 24 hours after fever is gone, without use of fever reducing medicine, and COVID-19 symptoms (cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, and sudden loss of taste and smell) are improving.”

### **18. What will happen if my student starts to experience COVID-like symptoms at school?**

*In the event that a student begins to show the following symptoms while in class, they (and their siblings, if applicable) will pack up their supplies and head to the Quiet Room. Their family will be contacted to immediately pick them up from school. A letter will be provided describing the family's next steps and when the student(s) can return to school. If their condition allows, the student(s) can attend CDL classes while they are in quarantine.*

### **19. If my child is sick or needs to quarantine can they participate in CDL?**

*Yes. We cannot have kids move in to in-person/hybrid instruction due to spacing and cohorting limitations. But, if a child needs to stay home for a period of time they can still get attendance credit as they have been doing this year in CDL by fully participating with the grade level remote teacher.*

### **20. Will we parents at home get vaccines as part of this change so we are protected just in case?**

The authority or access to vaccines does not rest with the school.

### **21. What will school look like in the fall? Are other schools guaranteeing full-time in-person?**

Schools in Oregon cannot currently guarantee what school will look like in the fall. We are at the behest of the virus and state mandates. However, as vaccine distribution increases, our likelihood of being full-time in-person increases. We may still need to offer the CDL option for our families that need it, and we will do that with fidelity. We may also need to provide 35 square feet per person, and if that is the case, we will not have the space to host every single student in-person full-time. The space limitation is the same issue that schools throughout TTSD have. This may change before the beginning of the 2021-22 school year. We will also do our best to organize classes so that we can host students safely in-person to the fullest extent we are able. We are hoping for more guidance from the state regarding next year before July.

### **22. How can I best prepare my family and student for in-person learning?**

All families will need to sign the [Hybrid Community Agreement](#) **before their first day of in-person learning in order to attend school in-person.**

**Every morning**, before your student comes to the building, you must submit a Daily Home Screening survey. It is available in [English](#) or [Spanish](#).

Students in carline will stay in their cars until a staff member approaches and conducts a visual screening. Once your student passes the visual screening, they will be shown into the building. If your student does not pass the visual screening, they will not be allowed into school. The school will follow up with your family on next steps and state quarantining requirements.

Students riding the bus will undergo a visual screening when boarding the bus. They will be shown into the school upon arrival. Students arriving at school will sanitize hands and report immediately to their classrooms.

Our school counselor, Heather Johnston, has created a [checklist](#) for you and your student(s) to prepare for in-person learning. It is very important that families acquaint themselves with the changes that are described to prepare their student(s) to attend school in a completely different way.

### **23. What kind of masks do you allow?**

Students need to wear a mask that covers their mouth **and** nose. Gaiters are not allowed. Cloth masks must be cleaned each day, and students should have an extra one in their backpack. Disposable masks are also allowed, however, they must wear a new one every day they enter the school building. The school will have plenty of disposable masks on hand for those who need one.

The CDC has excellent [GUIDANCE](#) on mask choices and how to wear them.

Cloth masks can have colors and patterns on them.

Face shields are not allowed UNLESS it's approved through their 504, IEP or individualized care plan OR if they have a medical necessity outlined in a doctor's note. If your student has an exemption, please share that information with Heather Johnston.

Choosing CDL is the best option for students who do not feel comfortable wearing masks for five and a half hours at school.

### **24. Will our students wear uniforms?**

Yes. But there will be flexibility since we are starting back on short notice. They should wear a solid color polo shirt OR their PE shirt, with khaki or navy bottoms. NOTE: The school is running COLDER

*since our recent HVAC upgrades. Students should be prepared for that with a sweater/ MITCH hoodie as needed. The uniform exchange is a great way to access free clothing that is in great condition.*

## **25. When would my student have a substitute teacher?**

*Up to this point, teachers have relied on supporting each other during CDL to take on extra students on the rare occasion that they have had to be absent. We have not used substitute teachers.*

*We expect more teacher absences in the remaining months as staff is subject to the same screening and stay-at-home guidance for COVID-like symptoms.*

*In the case that a teacher is unable to teach students in-person, a substitute may be hired to teach the class in-person. Depending on the circumstance they may swap in person days with their teaching partner.*

*The substitute teacher will be submitted to the same Daily Home Screening that our families, staff and students submit each day before attending in-person school. They would also be required to sign the MITCH Hybrid Community Agreement.*

## **26. How will you clean the building?**

*All classrooms, restrooms, halls and office will be thoroughly cleaned each day after dismissal. High touch supplies will also be cleaned. We have asked families to donate compostable wipes. They are NOT for daily cleaning. They will be used to help with small cleanup needs during student contact time, like a small lunch spill.*