

HARRISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2020-21 SCHOOL REOPENING PLAN

Updated April 23, 2021

This Updated School Reopening Plan should be read in conjunction with the [District's School Reopening Plan issued on July 31, 2020..](#)



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Contents:

Introduction.....	2
Reopening School Facilities for In-Person Instruction	2
Monitoring of Health Conditions.....	4
Containment of Potential Transmission of COVID-19.....	6
Closure of School Facilities and In-person Instruction.....	7

HARRISON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

2020-21 UPDATED SCHOOL REOPENING PLAN

The Harrison Central School District re-opening plan has been updated to reflect changes to the [Interim Guidance for In-person Instruction at Pre-K through Grade 12 Schools During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#) issued by the New York State Department of Health on April 9, 2021. This Updated School Reopening Plan should be read in conjunction with the [District's School Reopening Plan issued on July 31, 2020](#).

The Harrison Central School District (HCSD) has updated its reopening plan to ensure the safe return of students, faculty, and staff for in-person instruction five days per week. This updated reopening plan has been developed in consultation with stakeholder groups, including but not limited to the Board of Education trustees, administrators, teachers and staff, PTA, parents, and medical health professionals. In developing this updated reopening plan, HCSD held informational meetings with parents and community members in each school community as follows:

- [Samuel J. Preston Elementary School. 3/8/21](#)
- [Purchase Elementary School. 3/11/21](#)
- [Harrison Avenue Elementary School. 3/15/21](#)
- [Parsons Memorial Elementary School. 3/17/21](#)
- [Louis M. Klein Middle School. 3/22/21](#)
- [Harrison High School. 3/23/21](#)

This updated reopening plan addresses the following required categories:

- A. Reopening of school facilities for in-person instruction
- B. Monitoring of health conditions
- C. Containment of potential transmission of COVID-19
- D. Closure of school facilities and in-person instruction, if necessitated by widespread virus transmission

A. Reopening of School Facilities for In-Person Instruction

HCSD re-opened school in September 2020 in accordance with New York State Department of Health and New York State Education Department guidance, which required school districts to develop return to learning models to ensure the safe return of students and staff to in-person learning to the greatest extent possible. The three return to learning models implemented by HCSD in September included (a) 100% in-person instruction for students and staff if/when it is determined that all students and staff can safely attend in-person instruction in school; (b) hybrid instruction, which includes a combination of in-person learning in school and learning from home to meet recommended social distancing of students and staff; and (c) 100% learning from home, which is required if schools are closed pursuant to directives from the Department of Health, the New York State Education Department, or as a result of an executive order from the Governor.

In accordance with the [Interim Guidance for In-person Instruction at Pre-K through Grade 12 Schools During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#) issued by the New York State Department of Health on April 9, 2021, HCSD implemented several mitigation strategies that permitted the return of students to in-person instruction five days per week, while continuing to allow parents to choose a 100% virtual option.

The mitigation strategies that make possible the return of students to in-person instruction five days per week and should be read in conjunction with the [District's School Reopening Plan issued on July 31, 2020](#).

These mitigation strategies include:

- Required face coverings
- Adjustments to social distancing requirements
- Hygiene, cleaning and disinfection
- Installation of air filtration systems

Required Face Coverings: HCSD provides all faculty and staff with reusable face coverings to be worn at all times when on school property or in school buildings. Additional PPE, such as face shields and gloves, is provided on an as-needed basis to those adults with an increased risk of exposure. Parents are asked to supply face coverings for their children, and HCSD supplies face coverings to any student who does not have one. Students are required to wear face coverings at all times while on school property, in school buildings, and on school buses. Students shall not be required to wear face coverings while eating/drinking at designated times when they can take a break from wearing face coverings while able to socially distance or as a result of a disability or medical condition that prevents them from wearing a face covering. When students are not wearing a face covering, the social distancing of at least six feet will be strictly enforced.

Adjustments to Social Distancing Requirements: Social distancing guidelines require students to be at least three (3) feet from other students and at least six (6) feet from the teacher(s) in classrooms. In music classes, students must be at least six (6) feet from other students and the teacher(s). To the greatest extent practicable, students will be seated facing the same direction. When this cannot be maintained in classrooms, barriers may be utilized on desks to separate students. Signage is posted to remind students, adults, and visitors of the social distancing requirements, including signage in hallways and common areas to ensure the bi-directional flow of foot traffic.

Installation of Air Filtration Systems: HCSD has purchased and installed state of the art [air filtration technology](#) in all instructional spaces and offices. The units utilize three distinct filtration systems to remove and kill viruses in the air: Merv and HEPA filtration and UV light. They [cleanse the air](#) in a typical classroom between three and five times per hour.

Hygiene, Cleaning, and Disinfection: A daily, mandatory cleaning checklist is maintained by each school's custodial crew, which includes daily cleaning of classrooms, bathrooms, large gathering spaces, offices, and conference rooms. Cleaning and disinfecting focuses on high touch points such as tables, chair armrests, doorknobs, cabinet pulls, light switches, keyboards, etc.). HCSD has purchased electrostatic disinfectant applicators that are used as needed throughout the buildings and staff are trained in their use. Restrooms are cleaned throughout the day and disinfected daily. Custodial staff are trained in the use of PPE, personal hygiene and use of the new electrostatic disinfectant applicators. Additional stations for water bottle filling

have been added in each school to avoid use of water fountains. Hand sanitizers with signage are placed at strategic locations throughout each school, and EPA-approved, school-safe cleaning products that are effective on Coronavirus are used throughout the school. Germ barriers will be added in strategic locations in each school.

B. Monitoring of Health Conditions

HCSD has implemented several strategies to monitor health conditions among students, faculty and staff, which include:

- COVID-19 Coordinator & Liaisons
- Daily COVID-19 Screenings of Students, Faculty and Staff
- Implementation of COVID-19 Symptom Management Protocol
- Random COVID-19 Surveillance Testing of Students, Faculty, and Staff
- Actively Promoting the Availability of the COVID-19 Vaccine for Faculty and Staff
- Mental Health, Behavioral, and Emotional Support Services and Programs

COVID-19 Coordinator & Liaisons: Each school has a designated COVID-19 liaison who works with the designated COVID-19 district coordinator. The COVID-19 coordinator work in conjunction with the school district physician and school nurses, who serve as the COVID-19 liaisons, to monitor the implementation of safety protocols, collect data on symptomatic students/staff, oversee the safe return of students and staff to school following quarantine and/or isolation, and partner with the WCDOH to manage contact tracing in the event of positive cases. The COVID-19 coordinator keeps the Superintendent and Board of Education informed of COVID-19 related mitigation strategies, positive cases, and recommended adjustments to the District's reopening plan. The COVID-19 coordinator also sends weekly communications the community with information about COVID-19 cases, surveillance testing results, and updates COVID-19 guidance.

Daily COVID-19 Screenings of Students, Faculty and Staff: HCSD sends a daily digital survey to parents, faculty and staff, which requires them to answer COVID-19 screening questions and to report whether or not the student/faculty/staff member has a temperature of 100° Fahrenheit or higher that day. Daily screening questions include:

1. Have you had any new COVID-19 symptoms (unrelated to a known health condition) in the past 10 days? (The current CDC definition of possible COVID-19 symptoms includes: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, congestion or runny nose, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, or new loss of taste or smell).
2. Have you had a positive COVID-19 test in the past 10 days?
3. Have you had close contact with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases in the past 10 days? (Close contact is defined as 6 feet or closer for more than 10 minutes in a 24 hour period of time.)
4. Do you have a temperature of greater than or equal to 100° Fahrenheit without the use of fever suppressing medication (e.g., ibuprofen, aspirin, and naproxen)?

Any affirmative responses to questions in the daily digital survey triggers an automatic, confidential notification to principals, assistant principals and school nurses (in the case of students) and principals/supervisors (in the

case of staff members), and those students/staff are instructed by automated email not to report to school that day and await further communication from a district representative. Students, staff and parents are also required to report if they develop symptoms or if their answers to health assessment changes. The daily digital survey produces non-compliance reports each day to identify those students and/or staff members who did not complete the survey that day so that they can be asked to complete the survey and have their temperature taken upon arrival to school. Visitors, contractors, and vendors are required to complete the survey and have their temperature checked at the point of entry to each school building. To the greatest extent possible, visitors, contractors, and vendors are limited to those who have a necessary/essential reason for being in the school building, as determined by the school principal.

Random COVID-19 Surveillance Testing of Students, Faculty, and Staff: In conjunction with WCDOH, HCSD conducts COVID-19 surveillance testing on a randomly selected sample of approximately 200 students, faculty and staff each week using BinaxNOW rapid antigen tests provided by NYSDOH. Information about [HCSD's COVID-19 Surveillance Testing Program](#) is posted on the District's website. As of 4/23/21, HCSD has conducted 1050 COVID-19 surveillance tests with 0 positive test results:

Cumulative Results as of 4/23/21	HHS		LMK		HAS		PAR		PRE		PUR		TOTAL	
	Neg	Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg	Pos	Neg	Pos
Students	235	0	191	0	104	0	72	0	106	0	115	0	823	0
Faculty & Staff	64	0	46	0	36	0	27	0	23	0	31	0	227	0
Total	299	0	237	0	140	0	99	0	129	0	146	0	1050	0

Actively Promoting the Availability of the COVID-19 Vaccine for Faculty and Staff: HCSD has surveyed faculty and staff to determine those individuals who have been vaccinated and those who are still seeking the vaccine. HCSD recently notified all employees of dedicated vaccine administration days for district employees and has also regularly publicized the availability of the COVID-19 vaccine through local providers. HCSD also makes leave time available to employees to get vaccinated without charging absences to leave entitlements.

Mental Health, Behavioral, and Emotional Support Services and Programs: HCSD has provided students with all necessary mental health, behavioral, and emotional support as they return to school. These supports include:

- HCSD K-12 psychologists have received substantive clinical training in trauma-informed and trauma-sensitive teaching practices in addition to ongoing training in cognitive-behavioral (CBT) and dialectical behavior therapies (DBT) to help students develop skills in emotional regulation, mindfulness, and distress tolerance among other wellness skills. This past summer, psychologists and teacher leaders facilitated Professional Development in trauma-sensitive classrooms for our K-5 and 6-12 faculties. LMK and HHS have in place fully functioning DBT teams and work bi-weekly with a consulting psychologist.

- LMK psychologists partner with LMK physical education teachers to provide skills training in mindfulness, emotional regulation, distress tolerance, and interpersonal effectiveness.
- HCSD has added additional psychological support at Parsons Elementary School, Louis M. Klein Middle School, and Harrison High School.
- A district-wide behavioral specialist supports a comprehensive approach to addressing the social-emotional-behavioral needs of students and families.
- The District is proactive in supporting wellness and providing social-emotional-learning and emotionally safe and sensitive classrooms for all students.
- The clinical team provides additional support to students who struggle in this domain. They know who is most at risk, are trained to recognize signs of emotional distress and struggle, are aware of students who struggle and are well prepared to support.
- There is in place a systematic, coordinated, and coherent referral process from teachers to counselors to psychologists, under the supervision of the building administration. The system ensures that, when necessary, students receive increasing levels of support (from teacher consultation to direct counseling services) in the social-emotional-behavioral realm. Parents are an integral part of this process supported by systems that provide training and ongoing communication.
- Parent support includes coordinated outreach by school psychologists and school counselors, in consultation with classroom teachers and school administrators, to determine student need. Staff is trained in how to talk with and support students during and after the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency, as well as information on developing coping and resilience skills for students, faculty, and staff.

C. Containment of Potential Transmission of COVID-19

Containment includes protocols and procedures for how to respond to positive or presumed-positive cases, as well as preventative practices:

- Implementation of COVID-19 Symptom Management Protocol
- School Health Offices
- Isolation
- Collection
- Exposed & Infected Individuals
- Contact Tracing
- Communication

Implementation of COVID-19 Symptom Management Protocol: In consultation with WCDOH and the school district physician, HCSD has developed a [COVID-19 Symptom Management Protocol](#) that specifies the steps that school nurses take when a student or faculty/staff member presents with one or more COVID-19 symptoms.

School Health Offices: In consultation with the school district physician and school nurses, HCSD has developed a COVID-19 Health Protocol to address the needs of students and staff who may become symptomatic during the school day. This [COVID-19 Symptom Management Protocol](#) includes the list of symptoms that the nurse considers when completing an assessment, the safety precautions that the nurse

takes to isolate the individual, the criteria for determining when a student or staff member needs to be sent home, and a protocol for having the individual safely leave the school with a referral for follow-up care by a primary care physician.

Isolation: Each school nurse has a designated space to isolate individuals who present with COVID-19 symptoms so that they can be safely assessed according to the COVID-19 Care Plan. Symptomatic individuals wear a mask/face shield, and the school nurse and health assistant wear appropriate PPE while interacting with the symptomatic individual (e.g., N95 mask, face shield, gloves, medical gown). Assessments of symptomatic individuals are made in consultation with the school district physician and, as needed or required, the New York State Department of Health. Any space used to isolate symptomatic individuals will be properly disinfected.

Collection: In the event a student or staff member becomes symptomatic and the school nurse determines that the individual needs to leave school, the school nurse consults with the principal and school district physician. The principal may initiate a “hold in place” so that the symptomatic person can be escorted from the school. The school nurse provides the parent of the student or staff member with instructions to seek medical attention from a primary care physician and, in consultation with the school district physician, may refer the individual for COVID-19 testing.

Exposed & Infected Individuals: For students and staff members who are exposed to, or infected with, COVID-19, HCSD follows the standards for isolation, quarantine, and return to school dictated by the New York State Department of Health, in consultation with our school district physician. Students and staff members are not permitted to return to school until permitted according to NYSDOH standards.

Contact Tracing: HCSD complies with all requests from the New York State Department of Health for information to support contact tracing when a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 occurs, as permitted by applicable privacy laws.

Communication: In the event of a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19, HCSD communicates with parents and staff to provide necessary information, as permitted under applicable privacy laws, to ensure their safety. This information may include dates and locations of suspected or confirmed locations, measures HCSD is taking to contain the spread of the virus, recommended actions as advised by the NYSDOH, and interim alternative arrangements to ensure the continuity of learning. HCSD also sends parents and staff a weekly summary of the positive cases reported in each school, as well as a summary of the COVID-19 surveillance testing results. HCSD also reports data on the number of students/faculty/staff who are referred for testing, tested, and test positive cases to the [NYSDOH COVID-19 Dashboard](#) on a daily basis.

D. Closure of School Facilities and In-person Instruction, if Necessitated by Widespread Virus Transmission

Closure includes contingency plans, protocols, and procedures for decreasing the scale or scope of in-person education, and/or closing the school.

Closure triggers: HCSD follows the directives and guidance from NYSDOH and NYSED in making any decisions to close school due to COVID-19. Such decisions are communicated to parents and staff in a timely way.

Operational Activity: In the event of a school(s) closure, HCSD determines which operational activities are deemed essential and implement safety protocols for these essential operations to continue.

Communication: In the event of a school(s) closure, HCSD initiates a communication plan to keep parents and staff members informed by posting information on the District website and utilizing communication platforms (e.g., phone, email, text).

This document will be updated whenever there are new opportunities to improve the health safety, and well-being of students, faculty and staff, and to enhance the learning experience for students