

**Frequently Asked Questions  
About Health and Safety in the School District of Haverford Township  
2021-2022 School Year**

**Health and Safety/Mitigation Strategies**

**Q: Are masks required in all school buildings and on buses?**

A: Yes. The District is required to comply and enforce the current [masking order](#).

**Q: What happens if my child forgets their mask, or the mask gets wet?**

A: Our schools have disposable masks for this purpose. However, we are asking each child to come to school with at least two masks. Masks should fit over the nose and under the chin. Please view [this link](#) for CDC information on masks.

**Q: Will students be kept socially distanced?**

A: To the extent practical and possible, physical distancing will be observed. Desks will be organized in a manner to allow for physical distancing when classroom space allows.

**Q: What kinds of cleaning procedures will you have in place?**

A: Our customary cleaning regimen will remain in place with special focus on areas in which anyone who has tested positive has spent a significant amount of time.

**Q: Will students be asked to wash/sanitize their hands throughout the day?**

A: Handwashing/sanitizing is one of our mitigation strategies. Students will be expected to either wash their hands or sanitize their hands multiple times during the day. Hand sanitizer will be available in classrooms and throughout the buildings.

**Q: Will students be allowed to take their masks off for recess and during sports?**

A: Currently, students can remove their mask indoors during high intensity aerobic or anaerobic activities per the [masking order](#). Students are not required to wear masks outdoors.

**Q: What type of filters are in the schools HVAC systems?**

A: The School District HVAC systems are designed using Forced Supply Ventilation. Fresh outdoor air is pulled in through the air intake vents on the air handlers, which are filtered using MERV 8 filters. ASHRAE recommends using MERV 8 or higher filters in air handler systems. The filtered air is distributed to all areas of the building by a ductwork system. We increased the HVAC system's total airflow in the buildings to allow for more air changes in the spaces. The HVAC system mechanical systems are monitored using the Johnson Control Metysis program. Metysis monitors all setpoints in the HVAC system for proper ventilation, heating, and cooling. It will also notify the user via text or email if there are any problems or issues that would affect the system from functioning properly.

**COVID-19 quarantining and testing**

**Q: Where can I get my child tested for COVID-19?**

A: To find a test site near you, please click [here](#).

**Q: Will the district accept the results of an at-home test?**

A: We do not accept at-home tests at this time. We do accept rapid antigen tests and PCR tests conducted at a health care facility or pharmacy.

**Q: Can my child be tested for COVID 19 at school?**

A: Yes. If your child develops symptoms of COVID 19 while at school and you [provide consent](#) our school nurse can test your child. We will not test anyone who arrives at school sick.

**Q: What should I do if my child exhibits symptoms?**

A: Please review this helpful [flow chart](#). Please contact your pediatrician for further guidance.

**Q. My fully vaccinated child is symptomatic and waiting for a COVID-19 test result. Can they go to school?**

A: No. Anyone waiting for a test result, even if they are vaccinated, should stay home and avoid contact with others.

**Q: A household member has COVID-19-like symptoms and is awaiting the results of a COVID test. My child does not have symptoms. Can I send my child to school?**

A: As long as the child does not have symptoms they can attend school. If the household member tests positive, then any unvaccinated household contacts should stay home. When in doubt, keep your child home and contact your school nurse.

**Q: If my child is vaccinated, but becomes symptomatic, can they attend school?**

A: No one should come to school symptomatic regardless of vaccination status.

**Q: My child is partially vaccinated and has been identified as a close contact. Can they come to school, or should they quarantine?**

A: Only fully vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine after an exposure as long as they remain asymptomatic. If someone is partially vaccinated, they need to quarantine. If needed, please contact your child's school nurse

**Q: Will you still be contact tracing? How will this work if students are masked?**

A: Yes. We will follow the close contact flowchart provided by the PA Department of Health (PADOH) and notify close contacts of their need to quarantine. Per the CDC, in the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition *excludes* students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student if both students wore masks. **This exception does not apply to adults in the indoor classroom setting.**

**Q: When will I get a letter about positive cases in my child's school? When will I know if my child needs to quarantine?**

A: You will be notified if someone in your child's school tests positive and was in school during the contagious period. In addition, if the positive student was in your child's class or on their bus you will receive an additional notification. If your child is identified as a close contact and requires to quarantine you will be contacted before a school wide notification is sent.

**Q: How long is someone who is identified as a close contact required to quarantine?**

A: This varies based on the alternative quarantine options that are available. For more information please review the PADPH [quarantine](#) and [alternative quarantine](#) documents.

**Q: My child was exposed to someone who is positive, but my child is fully vaccinated. Do they need to quarantine?**

A: No, provided your child does not present with any symptoms.

**Q: If you must quarantine an entire class, will you move instruction online?**

A: Yes, if an entire class must quarantine, instruction will be provided using a combination of live online instruction and asynchronous work.

**Q: If my individual child must quarantine, will they be able to access instruction online?**

A: Students will be provided with access to learning materials and instruction via technology and resources that can be accessed remotely. This includes, but is not limited to Canvas, Zoom, Zearn, Eureka Math, Reading Eggs, Study Island, textbooks, periodicals, journals, novels, and non-fiction books. Teachers will often require one day to gather the materials and prepare for the student to engage virtually. Teachers will check in with students throughout the quarantine period to ensure they have what they need.

**Q: Where can I go to receive the vaccine?**

A: Visit [vaccine.gov](https://www.vaccine.gov) to find a vaccine provider near you.

**Q: Are all staff members required to be fully vaccinated against COVID 19?**

A: Staff members are not currently required to provide proof of vaccination. Staff members are required to participate in weekly assurance testing. They are allowed to opt out of weekly testing if they provide proof of vaccination. Currently, more than 80% of the District's staff have opted out of testing by providing proof of vaccination. In addition, some staff members who are vaccinated continue to participate in assurance testing.