

November 22, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We remain watchful of the number of [COVID-19 cases](#) specifically at HMS. When examining the increase in cases it is important to be mindful that the school houses 1,600 students and approximately 150 staff members. We have not met the PA Department of Health's definition of an outbreak and therefore will not suspend in-person learning this week.

#### [PA DOH outbreak in schools](#)

A maximum 14-day suspension of in-person learning may be recommended by DOH if the following criteria are met:

- 5% of students/staff confirmed cases in a 14-day window:
  - Small school (<500 staff & students): 25 case threshold
  - Medium school (500-900 staff & students): 25-45 case threshold
  - Large school (900+ staff & students): 45+ case threshold
    - *5% at HMS = 87 case threshold*

#### **OR**

- Three simultaneous classroom and/or core group outbreaks when:
  - Contact tracing cannot adequately identify close contacts or be completed in a timely manner; and
  - Other mitigation strategies such as physical distancing or universal masking are not being implemented or adhered to.

The criteria outlined above will be used by DOH to determine if a recommendation for a maximum 14-day suspension of in-person learning is appropriate. DOH and PDE support continuation of in-person learning and will limit closure recommendations when possible.

As of the close of last week, we were confident that there was no in school transmission among students - given the information families willingly share with us.

Fortunately the vaccine is readily available. Families choosing to have their children vaccinated can obtain it through a number of venues. The second date of our COVID vaccine clinic is December 11th. For more information on where you may access the COVID 19 vaccine visit [vaccine.gov](#).

In addition, the Havertown YMCA is offering COVID 19 testing free of charge for all community members. The schedule is as follows: Monday through Thursday 10am - 6pm and Saturday morning 9am - 12pm

Sincerely,  
Maureen Reusche, Ed.D  
Superintendent

Nicole Battestelli,  
Pandemic Coordinator and Director of Pupil Services & Special Education