



Holy Family Academy
COVID Policy
August 19, 2022

Holy Family Academy is committed to a safe and healthy school environment for our students, staff, and families. The following COVID protocols are effective for the 2022-2023 school year and have been developed based on a thorough review of updated recommendations by our school's Medical Director, Nurse, and Administration.

Overview

- There continues to be no universal masking requirement at HFA with the exception of the School Nurse's Office, as required by state law;
- HFA will not be conducting COVID testing; however, parent/self testing at the school for symptomatic individuals who are at school will be made available as appropriate. Please note that staff at HFA cannot administer or interpret a rapid COVID test;
- HFA will not be contact tracing;
- HFA will continue to work with the Local Board of Health in the case of outbreaks;
- While masks are not generally required at school, except for school health offices, any individual who wishes to continue to mask, including those who face higher risk from COVID-19, will be supported in that choice. For those who need or choose to mask, masking is never required while eating, drinking, sleeping, or outside;

- HFA will have masks for urgent needs at school; however, we request parents to please supply a mask if you know that your child needs to wear one at school, whenever possible.
- To count days for isolation, Day 0 is the first day of symptoms or the day a positive test was taken, whichever is earlier.

What are the requirements if my HFA student(s) is EXPOSED to COVID-19?

Quarantine is no longer required nor recommended, regardless of vaccination status or where the exposure occurred. All exposed students may continue to attend school as long as they remain asymptomatic. Those who can mask should do so until Day 10, and it is recommended that they test on Day 6 of exposure.

Symptomatic students can remain at school if they have mild symptoms, are tested immediately on site((self test or parent tested), and that test is negative. If a mildly symptomatic student cannot be tested immediately, he or she can remain at school by following the best practice of wearing a mask, if possible, until they have the opportunity to test at home after school, test negative, and they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and their symptoms are resolving, or if a medical professional makes an alternative diagnosis.

Mildly symptomatic students who test positive must go home. Please see the section below regarding what to do if your student tests positive for COVID-19.

If a mildly symptomatic student cannot be tested immediately and cannot wear a mask, he or she will be sent home and allowed to return to school if he or she receives a negative test result, symptoms remain mild, and the student has been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication and symptoms are resolving, or if a medical professional makes an alternative diagnosis.

What are the requirements if my HFA student(s) tests positive for COVID-19?

Students who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate for at least 5 days. If they are asymptomatic or symptoms are resolving and they have been fever-free without the use of fever-reducing medicine for 24 hours, they may return to school after Day 5 and should wear a high-quality mask through Day 10.

If the student is able to mask, they must do so through Day 10 unless he or she receives a negative test result on Day 5 or later.

If a student is unable to mask, they may return to school with a negative test on Day 5 or later.

COVID-19 Symptoms

- Fever (100 degrees F or higher), chills, or shaking chills;
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath;
- New loss of taste or smell;
- Sore throat, when in combination with other symptoms;
- Nausea, when in combination with other symptoms;
- Headache, when in combination with other symptoms;
- Fatigue, when in combination with other symptoms
- Muscle aches or body aches;
- Cough (not due to other known cause, such as chronic cough);
- Nasal congestion or runny nose (not due to other main causes such as allergies), when in combination with other symptoms.

What other steps is the school taking to reduce the spread of COVID-19?

Holy Family Academy continues its commitment to reducing the spread of COVID-19 through health and hygiene practices such as handwashing and the use of hand sanitizer, with parent permission. Further, the school continues to adhere to thorough cleaning routines, increasing ventilation throughout the school, and ensuring that our students get adequate time outdoors, weather permitting.

Best Practices

Other best practices that our families can take to make the best decision for their own family in protecting them from the risks of COVID-19 include reviewing your child's risk level for COVID-19 with your Pediatrician or Primary Care Provider (PCP). Additional best practices and recommendations for your family can be found [here](#).

Please note that this policy is subject to change based on Local Board of Health directives or recommendations due to a change in the COVID-19 community level.