

Hermosa Montessori School



Preschool through Middle School
Supporting growth since 1979

HERMOSA MONTESSORI SCHOOL MITIGATION PLAN 2020-21

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Hermosa Montessori Charter School (HMCS) is committed to keeping our students, families and staff safe during the current COVID-19 pandemic. The Governing Board of Hermosa Montessori Charter School created the safe school reopening document with consideration of materials provided by the Arizona Governor's Office, the CDC, Pima County Health Department, and the Arizona Department of Education. Hermosa School's return to on campus instruction will be determined by using the guidance and benchmarks provided by the Pima County Health Department, as indicated by Governor Ducey. Governor Ducey's AZCARES requires that all public and charter schools offer instruction for the same number of days and hours as they did during the 19-20 school year. From the published information, the Governing Board considered multiple mitigation strategies as the most effective way to reduce the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19. Hermosa School will use current best practice safety measures for the return to in-person learning. We will rely on multiple strategies and parental cooperation to ensure that these measures and precautions will allow for safe on-campus instruction.

School Reopening Considerations and Protocols

The Arizona Department of Education (ADE), ADE's Roadmap for Reopening Schools, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Pima County Health Department recommend that decisions regarding school reopening be based on the prevalence of COVID-19 in the local community. The following protocols included recommendations for mitigating the risk of illness once a decision to reopen has been made. The Hermosa School Board will consider a phased reopening dependent on data received from parents. Parents will be allowed a choice of returning to campus, or at home instruction with the school providing instructional materials.

Communication

The school principal will coordinate and communicate the messages to staff, parents, and students regarding reopening, potential closure, and other COVID-19-related information. The principal and health director will ensure that informational signage on hand-washing, covering of coughs and sneezes, and symptoms of illness are located at the school entry area. Posters reminding individuals not to enter if sick will also be prominently displayed. Either the principal, health director, or designee will regulate social distancing protocols, in conjunction with staff. Hermosa families will receive regular updates and communication via Hermosa Headlines.

COVID-19 Point of Contact

The school principal will be the designated COVID-19 point of contact and be responsible for answering parent questions regarding the implementation of COVID-19 protocols.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Prior to students returning to campus, all staff will be trained on the implementation of safety protocols. Training will include proper use of PPE (mask and shields), cleaning and disinfecting in classrooms, social distancing, and other

mitigation measures. HMCS will educate families via virtual Webex meetings regarding the safety protocols and health screening.

ON CAMPUS SAFETY PROTOCOLS

DAILY HEALTH SCREENING

- **“CDC does not currently recommend universal symptom screenings (screening all students grades K-12) be conducted by schools.**
- **Parents or caregivers should be strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of infectious illness every day.” CDC**
- **Before leaving home,** a parent or guardian will check their child for symptoms associated with COVID-19 or any other contagious illness, that would prevent them from attending or remaining at school. Parents must communicate this information to school personnel via a wellness application provided free of charge to all Hermosa families prior to daily school attendance.

Students and staff will remain home if any of these symptoms are present:

- Fever or chills
- Cough
- Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- Fatigue
- Muscle or body aches
- Headache
- New loss of taste or smell
- Sore throat
- Congestion or runny nose
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea

At School

Any student with visible symptoms of illness, including runny nose, cough, shortness of breath, or vomiting, will be taken to the health office. Parents will be contacted for pick-up unless the student has a documented allergy action plan. If the student has health information on file that confirms a diagnosis of allergy, asthma, or other respiratory condition and the health aide observes that there

are no other symptoms, the health aide will contact the parent to inquire as to whether the student has had any other symptoms or there have been any COVID-19 exposures in the home. If not, depending on the situation or other explanations of symptoms, a determination will be made if the student may return to class.

Hand Washing

All students and staff will wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, at the following times:

- upon arrival at school
- before and after lunch
- after sneezing, coughing, or blowing nose
- every two hours
- after being outside for physical activity
- prior to leaving school for home

Face Covering

Pima County Supervisors voted to require face masks (covering) for individuals 5 years and older on June 19th, 2020. To date, (September 10, 2020) this requirement is still in force. The ordinance allows for exemptions for persons who cannot medically tolerate wearing a face covering, children under the age of 5, and when individuals can maintain 6 feet of distance from others. Parents of students under the age of 5 can voluntarily have their student wear a face mask. Students will be expected to bring their own cloth face coverings to and from school. Hermosa will have a supply of face coverings available to provide to students who cannot afford or do not have their own.

Note: Cloth face coverings are designed to protect other individuals rather than the individual wearing the covering. Accordingly, the greater number of students wearing cloth face coverings, the greater the overall transmission mitigation that will be achieved. Plastic face guards are permitted but not required.

Materials

Individual student belongings will be stored in cubbies or lockers labeled with each student's name. School supplies will not be shared among students. If a school supply or piece of equipment must be shared by students, for example, Montessori materials, a staff member will wipe down the item with disinfectant after each use.

Social Distancing

Staff members will educate and remind students regularly to maintain at least 6 feet of distance between individuals at all times possible. Where possible, students will remain with the same groupings or cohort, and the same staff throughout the day.

Arrival-Dismissal

Parents will utilize "curb side" drop off during arrival. Arrival and dismissal times will be staggered. During the staggered dismissal times, parents will comply with the 6 foot social distancing requirement, and utilize the indicated distanced areas designated by the school.

Bathrooms

Students will enter bathrooms in groups no larger than the number of stalls or urinals in the bathroom, and will be directed to maintain social distancing. Only one boy or girl from each classroom will be allowed in the bathroom at a time. Posters reminding students of proper handwashing techniques will be displayed. The bathroom will be cleaned/sanitized mid day, and at the end of each school day.

Playground

Only one class at a time will use the playground equipment. Classes will adhere to a specific and designated time slot, with time slots scheduled so there is sufficient time between classroom use for cleaning and disinfecting prior to the next group's use. Teachers will utilize cohorts and emphasize social distancing during

unstructured time. Students and teachers will wash their hands following playground activities.

Ventilation

CDC guidelines regarding ventilation systems improvements have been completed with consultation from experienced Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) professionals. The delivery of clean air includes:

- Increased outdoor air ventilation, using fresh outdoor air by opening windows and operating evaporative coolers.
- Confirmation that ventilation systems are operating properly and provide acceptable indoor air quality for the current occupancy level for each space, and increased total airflow supply to occupied spaces.
- Disabled demand-controlled ventilation (DCV) controls that reduce air supply based on occupancy or temperature during occupied hours.
- Operating the HVAC system at maximum outside airflow for at least 2 hours before and after the school is occupied.
- Confirmation that restroom exhaust fans are functional and operating at full capacity and bathroom windows are open.
- Use of portable high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) fan/filtration systems to help enhance air cleaning in the health office.
- Completion of duct cleaning by a certified HVAC professional for all classrooms.

The Principal and Governing Board President will:

- Review relevant local/state regulatory agency policies and orders.
- Consult local health officials about the school's approach to planning for COVID-19.
- Designate the School Health Director and Principal responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns.
- Make sure staff, parents, and students know how to contact this person.
- Develop policies that encourage sick staff members to stay at home without fear of job loss or other consequences and protect their privacy, particularly for those with underlying medical conditions and at higher risk for severe illness.
- Offer options for virtual learning opportunities for staff and students at higher risk for severe illness.
- Offer flexible sick leave policies and practices.

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- Monitor absenteeism of students and staff, crosstrain staff, and create a roster of trained back-up staff.
- Communicate regularly with families, staff, via *Hermosa Headlines* regarding updates about the status of COVID-19 in the school and community.

The following measures will be implemented:

Students and staff will:

- Be taught to appropriately cover coughs and sneezes by covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or inside of the elbow, throwing the tissue away, and then washing hands.
- Avoid touching one's eyes, nose, mouth, and mask.
- Have students and staff eat lunch in outdoor areas, and on porches while maintaining social distancing, or in cohorts.
- Wear face coverings as required by the Pima County Board of Supervisors.
- Physically distance 6 feet apart when appropriate and feasible.
- Wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds prior to entering the classrooms and every two hours thereafter.
- Have hand sanitizer in all classrooms for grades 1-8
- Utilize the abundant outdoor classrooms and porches to reduce the duration of time in enclosed spaces and the number of students in a classroom.
- Not share supplies.
- Create student cohorts.
- Provide adequate ventilation and circulation of outdoor air by opening windows in buildings.
- Manage anxiety about COVID-19 with regular lessons and guidance presented by Hermosa's Communication Specialist.
- Use personal water bottles for hydration

In addition to the above mentioned measures the following will also be implemented:

- Janitorial and school personnel will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces by using sprays, concentrates, and wipes daily or between use as much as possible.
- Arrival and dismissal times will be staggered
- No outside visitors or volunteers will be allowed on-campus, except if required for the safety and well-being of students.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided via stations on campus, one to be located at the entry area. All grade 1-8 classrooms will also have hand sanitizer available.
- Informational signage regarding COVID-19 will be provided in high visibility locations
- Indoor and outdoor water fountains will be closed

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- An isolation room will be available if a student or staff member becomes symptomatic at school while awaiting transportation home.
- The Governing Board will provide on-going reviews of protocols and know that flexibility in meeting student needs will be essential to meet the changing nature of the COVID-19 response.

Note: “Coronaviruses on surfaces and objects naturally die within hours to days. Warmer temperatures and exposure to sunlight will reduce the time the virus survives on surfaces and objects.” CDC

Procedures for COVID-19 Symptoms or a Positive Test

Consistent with CDC’s recommendations, individuals with COVID-19 signs or symptoms will be referred to a healthcare provider for evaluation and testing. Hermosa School will provide Individuals with the latest local information on testing.

In most instances, a single case of COVID-19 in a school would not warrant closing the entire school. Community spread and how much contact the person with COVID-19 had with others, as well as when such contact took place, will be considered. These variables will also be considered when determining how long a school, or part of the school, stays closed. If the spread of SARS-CoV-2 within a school is higher than in the community, or if the school is the source of an outbreak, administrators will work with local health officials to determine if temporarily closing the school is necessary.

Students, teachers, and staff who test positive for COVID-19, or have had close contact with anyone who tested positive will follow all CDC and Pima County Health Department recommendations regarding quarantine, testing, and return to school.

If an individual receives an alternate diagnosis (not COVID-19) from a physician, or receives a negative test result, they do not have to isolate for 10 days, but must

be fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications and show a reduction in symptoms.

Hermosa Montessori School will adhere to all stated Pima County and Arizona resolutions and guidance regarding managing on campus instruction during the pandemic.

The School Health Director is responsible for responding to COVID-19 concerns and will follow all procedures for reporting.

PROCEDURES FOR COVID-19 SYMPTOMS OR A POSITIVE TEST

If a person becomes sick with COVID-19 symptoms or reports a positive COVID-19 test, the procedures listed below should be followed:

- Immediately report the situation to the Health Office. Confidentiality must be maintained to the greatest extent possible.
- If an employee develops COVID-19 symptoms at work, separate the employee from all other students, staff, or visitors, then make arrangements for the employee to leave for home in a safe manner.
- If the employee is able to self-transport, have the employee leave the campus.
- If the employee is not able to safely self-transport, contact a family member, friend, or other method of transport to get the employee home or to a healthcare provider.
- If the employee appears to be in medical distress, call 911.

If a student develops COVID-19 symptoms at school:

- Separate the student from all other students and staff, with the exception of one staff member to supervise the student. Have this staff member wear PPE (Mask/shields) or a cloth face covering and maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from the student at all times, unless there is an emergency.
- Immediately notify a parent or emergency contact to pick up the student, and call 911 if the student appears to be in medical distress.
- Close off any areas that were exposed to the symptomatic student for a prolonged period (less than 6 feet for 15 minutes)
- Clean and disinfect those areas and or wait for 24 hours to clean and disinfect as indicated by current Pima County Health Department or Arizona Department of Health Services guidelines.
- During that time, if feasible, open windows or outside doors to increase air circulation
- Maintain operation of an air cleaner

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- Determine whether other employees or students may have been exposed to the symptomatic individual within 6 feet and for a significant period of time (less than 6 feet and longer than 15 minutes). If so, notify those individuals (or, in the case of students, their parents) of the potential exposure.
- DO NOT disclose the name of the individual who has become ill, unless the person freely consents to such disclosure or in the case of a minor student, a parent/guardian of the student freely consents to disclosure.
- Notification should recommend that exposed individuals monitor their health closely, contact their health care provider if possible, and self-quarantine if any symptoms develop.

Employees or students who have developed COVID-19 symptoms or had a positive COVID-19 test may not return to the site until: At least 10 days have passed since the first symptoms emerged; and at least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery, which is defined as either: § (a) resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and (b) full resolution of respiratory and other COVID-19 symptoms; or § (a) resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and (b) substantial improvement in the resolution of respiratory and other COVID-19 symptoms and (c) a doctor's release to return to work (d) two negative test results

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For the Governing Board

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