



Preschool through Middle School
Supporting growth since 1979

HERMOSA MONTESSORI SCHOOL 2021-22

MITIGATION PLAN

Reopening Procedures and Considerations

Board Approved

Date:

Table of Contents

School Reopening Considerations and Protocols
Communication
Designated Contact
Education and Training
On Campus Safety Protocols
Daily Health Screening
Hand-washing
Face Covering
Materials
Social Distancing
Arrival-Dismissal
Bathrooms
Playground
Ventilation
Visitors
Field Trips
School Events
Procedures for Parent Notification of a Positive Case

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 Montessori School adheres to the legal mandates provided by the State of Arizona. Governor Ducey's AZCARES requires that charter schools offer five day a week instruction for 180 days, and for the same number of hours as in the previous school year. The document also considers the fluid nature of considerations and information regarding the reopening of school during an unprecedented pandemic.

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.

COVID-19 PROTOCOLS FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) recommend that the current prevalence of COVID-19 in the local and school community drive decisions regarding school attendance

Communication

The school Principal and Vice Principal will coordinate and communicate the messages to staff, parents, and students regarding reopening, potential closure, and other COVID-19-related information. The Principal, Vice 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, Vice 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 or Vice 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 updated information regarding cleaning and disinfecting in classrooms, social distancing, and other mitigation measures.

On Campus Safety Protocols

DAILY HEALTH SCREENING

- The CDC does not currently recommend symptom screenings by schools.
- Parents or caregivers should be strongly encouraged to monitor their children for signs of infectious illness every day.
- Before leaving home, a parent or guardian is encouraged to 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 information regarding symptoms of contagious illness to school personnel.
- Students will have the opportunity to make up work missed due to symptoms of illness.

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 diagnosis of allergy from an MD physician. If the student has health information on file that a parent has provided to the school that confirms a diagnosis of allergy, asthma, or other respiratory condition from an MD physician, 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
- after being outside for physical activity

Face Covering

FACE COVERINGS ARE NO LONGER REQUIRED

- Face coverings will no longer be required for any student or staff member; however, masks may be worn.
- Face coverings will not be required in any educational space or during activity Face masks will be available for distribution upon request.

- Masks are not required at this time. Hermosa encourages families to consult their health care provider and our staff will support each family's mask decision for their student(s). Pima County Board of Supervisors does not require universal masking on public schools.

Materials

Individual student belongings will be stored in cubbies or lockers labeled with each student's name.

Social Distancing

Staff members will educate and remind students to maintain distance between individuals at all times when possible. Where possible, students will remain with the same groupings or cohort, and the same staff throughout the day. Social distancing protocols may be "relaxed" when community monitoring reveals lower levels of community spread of COVID-19.

Arrival-Dismissal

Parents of kindergarten through middle students will utilize "curbside" drop off during arrival. **Only students are allowed past the front gates.** Parents of preschool students will sign in their student(s) as required by the Arizona Department of Health Services at the front gate where a staff member will greet the student and assist the student to arrive at their classroom. Arrival and dismissal times will be staggered. During the staggered dismissal times, parents are encouraged to maintain social distancing.

Playground

Classes will adhere to a specific and designated time slot. Students and teachers will wash their hands following playground activities.

Bathrooms

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 and sanitized daily.

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.

In addition to the above mentioned ventilation systems, Hermosa has installed fans with UV lights that have the capability to reduce virus spread. For more information on these fans see: <https://www.cleanairsystem.com/products/>

Visitors

Hermosa will limit nonessential visitors and volunteers at school. No parent volunteers in the classroom will be allowed during the COVID-19 health crisis or during an increase in reported cases.

Field Trips

During periods of community spread, as in the Delta Variant, field trips will be cancelled or delayed until such time as community spread is limited.

School Events

Large scale events such as “Parent Night”, carnival, or spaghetti dinner, will be canceled or rescheduled to a later date when community spread is minimized.

Parent Notifications of a Positive Case

Hermosa School continues to follow CDC guidelines and reports all confirmed COVID-19 cases that occur at school.

The process for parent/guardian notification is as follows:

- Possible exposure notifications will be sent to all staff, parents, guardians of students with a reported positive case.
- COVID-19 notifications of confirmed cases are made when they fall under the following definitions of a confirmed case: Pima County Health Department and the CDC define a close contact as anyone within 6 feet of an infected person for accumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period and recommend the following:

PCHD and the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) require that your child stay home and away from others (“quarantine”) if they are NOT fully vaccinated until ONE of the following is met:

Criteria 1

- At least 10 days have passed since they were exposed to COVID-19; AND
- Remain symptom free for that 10-day period.

Criteria 2

- At least 7 days have passed since they were exposed to COVID-19; AND
- Your child tests negative for COVID-19 at least five days after the above date; AND
- Your child has been symptom free for that seven-day period.

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.