



Preschool through Middle School
Supporting growth since 1979

HERMOSA MONTESSORI SCHOOL 2022-23

MITIGATION PLAN

Procedures and Considerations

Board Approved

Date: 07/14/22

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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 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 2022-23 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. 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 were trained on the implementation of safety protocols. Training included updated information regarding virus killing fan operation and disinfecting in classrooms, and other mitigation measures.

On Campus Safety Protocols

DAILY HEALTH SCREENING

- 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 Covid 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:

- 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 are not required for any student or staff member; however, **masks may be worn.**
- Face coverings are not required in any educational space or during activity. Hermosa does not provide face masks. Families must provide face masks for their students if indicated.
- Hermosa encourages families to consult their health care provider regarding the decision to mask students during the school day. The staff will support each family's mask decision for their student(s).

Social Distancing

Hermosa will use all indoor and outdoor classroom spaces and porches for student lessons and individual work.

Arrival-Dismissal

Parents of kindergarten through middle students will utilize “curbside” drop off during arrival. **Only students are allowed past the front gates during arrival.** 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.

Playground

Classes will adhere to a specific and designated time. 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 an increase in reported cases. Volunteers for a specific one time inclusion into the school day will be considered on a case by case basis.

Parent Notifications of a Positive Case

Hermosa School continues to follow the most recent guidelines for communicating and reporting 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.

Parents will be given the most recent recommendations for quarantine. The current recommendations are as follows if their student is NOT fully vaccinated.

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.

Guidance from Pima County Health Department of July 2022

The current guidance says people can spread COVID-19 up to 2 days before their symptoms started, during the entire time they had symptoms, and until criteria for ending self-isolation are met (fever free for 24 hours, improvement or resolution in other symptoms, and at least 5 days has passed since symptoms started.) You should continue to wear a well-fitting mask for an additional 5 days. If you have a fever/symptomatic, continue to stay home until your symptoms resolve.

To protect the people you care about, you must isolate yourself from others for at least 5 days but sometimes longer because we have to wait for the virus to clear from your body. Once your 5-day isolation period is over and your symptoms are resolved or improved, you should still wear a well-fitting mask around others for an additional 5 days. (10 days total)

Here are some final reminders to follow while in isolation:

- **Please Stay home** and avoid all public spaces unless you need to seek medical care, most people with COVID-19 have a mild illness and can recover at home without medical care.
- **Avoid public transportation**, ridesharing services or taxis.
- **Take care of yourself** by getting rest and staying hydrated, take any over the counter medications that help you feel better.
- **Stay in touch with your doctor or a healthcare provider**, be aware of concerning symptoms and emergency warning signs as described:
 - Trouble Breathing
 - Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
 - new confusion
 - inability to wake up or stay awake, and
 - bluish lips or face
- **Do not travel** until a full 10 days after your first day of symptoms (or test collection if asymptomatic). If you must travel on days 6-10, wear a well-fitting mask when you are around others for the entire duration of travel. If you are unable to wear a mask, you should not travel during the 10 days.
- **Do not go to places where you are unable to wear a mask**, such as restaurants and some gyms, and avoid eating around others at home and at work until a full 10 days after your first day of symptoms
- **We don't recommend getting re-tested during your isolation period**. If you do, you must still complete your Isolation and continue wearing a well-fitting mask until done with isolation.

If someone is showing any of the described symptoms, seek emergency medical care immediately. Call 911 or call ahead to your local emergency facility, notify the operator that you are seeking care for someone who has or may have COVID-19. *This list does not include all possible symptoms.

Please call your medical provider for any other symptoms that are severe or concerning to you. If you have additional questions, please call the Pima County Health Department.

For information about the COVID-19 vaccine, including registration please visit www.pima.gov/covid19vaccine or for telephone assistance please call 520-222-0119.

For Additional guidance:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>

COVID-19 Hotline 1-844-542-8201

Previous Guidance 2022

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.