

HCA Illness Mitigation Plans for 2021-22

Live by the “Golden Rule.” The Bible is clear in its commandment that we love one another (Matthew 7:12; 22:39; John 13:34). Showing respect and care for our educational environment, and all those who enter in it, is key to our overall success and critical to building the trust necessary for our community to thrive.

Without a school nurse on site, and in partnership with parents to make the best decisions for our community, our school will refer families to outside medical professionals when unique or unclear situations arise.

HCA General Medical Policies

1. Parents are required to daily screen for general illnesses in their child(ren). If there are any symptoms of general illness, parents should keep child(ren) home. Staff members are required to complete daily screenings as well.
2. HCA will provide ongoing and proactive education and communication to staff, students and families regarding health and hygiene.
3. In the event of a medical emergency, epidemic and/or pandemic, HCA will consult with medical professionals regarding prevention, transmission, and time out of school.
4. If at any point there is a heightened state of illness(es) spreading throughout our community, the Student Life Committee will convene to discuss the situation and appropriate next steps. These may include the need for enhanced mitigation strategies to be implemented, virtual learning or a temporary school closure.
5. In general, the following medical guidelines will be followed:
 - a. Students exhibiting signs of illness will be sent to the office and, if necessary, a parent will be contacted.
 - b. For any student with a temperature of 100 degrees or more or who is ill, a parent or guardian will be contacted and asked to pick up the child within one hour.
 - c. Students must be fever free (temperature less than 100 degrees without fever-reducing medication) for 24 hours prior to returning to school.
 - d. Students with illness-related vomiting and/or diarrhea must be symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school.
 - e. Written notice from the parent or guardian is required for all excused absences from school (see page 18 of HCA Handbook).
 - f. A doctor’s written excuse is required after absences of three consecutive days or more due to an illness (see page 18 of HCA Handbook).

Addendum for 2021-22 School Year

In light of COVID-19 concerns, and, in order to protect the most vulnerable members of our community, those who are immunocompromised and at higher risk due to age, the following guidelines supersede the general medical guidelines:

1. Students exhibiting any combination of symptoms of COVID-19 (runny nose, congestion, pink eye, coughing, sore throat, unusual fatigue, redness or swelling of the lips, tongue, hands or feet, muscle aches, vomiting, diarrhea, rash, shortness of breath, chest pain, and/or fever) will be sent to the office and parent or guardian will be expected to pick up their child within an hour.
2. If a confirmed COVID-19 case or presumed positive case (~~which is any combination of symptoms listed above~~) occurs, the parents must notify the HCA office and the following guidelines will be upheld:
 - a. Household contact: Someone within a household (i.e. parent or sibling) is positive, it will be expected that the entire family (parents and all siblings) isolate at home and consult with an outside medical provider for next steps. A doctor's written note will be required for reentry to school, should symptoms appear. If no symptoms appear during prescribed isolation period, the student(s) may reenter school at the end of the isolation period without the need for a doctor's note.
 - b. Student contacts: If a student is positive, that student will be expected to quarantine and consult with an outside medical provider for next steps. All siblings of this student will be expected to isolate and follow the guidelines above for household contacts. A doctor's written note will be required for reentry to school.
 - Communication to school community: ~~Contacts and close contacts~~ will be notified by written communication from the HCA office. Contacts are those in the same classroom as the student who is positive or presumed positive. ~~Close contacts are those who sit closest (to the left and right) to the positive student. Close contacts will be required to isolate and consult with an outside medical provider for next steps. A doctor's written note will be required for reentry to school.~~
 - c. Assignment completion/Virtual learning: Students who are isolating will be required to complete missed assignments and/or participate in virtual learning. Once notification of the close contact has been made to parents, students must begin isolation as soon as possible. If students are in school at the time a positive case becomes known, parents will be asked to pick students up within one hour of communication. Teachers will provide necessary materials and information for continued learning within 24 hours of communication of confirmed case.
 - d. In all positive cases, parents must communicate expected return dates, showing respect for teachers who are preparing for and balancing both in person and at home learning.

*The Student Life Committee reviews policies and procedures monthly to make sure that we are taking the proper precautions for our community. If there are any questions about student health and safety, please email office@hersheychristianacademy.org.