



HANOVER PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

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COVID-19 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Q: Are face coverings required in school?

A: Effective September 7th, by order of the Acting Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, masks will be mandatory in all school buildings and on all buses and vans. At this time the order supersedes the district's protocols as written previously.

Q: What do I do if my child cannot wear a mask due to a medical or mental health condition or a disability?

A: You will be required to submit a mask exemption request by completing the form in the link below. Once the form is submitted, your child's building administrator will contact you to discuss the next steps. Please note that the district may require additional documentation from a medical professional before approving your request. We ask that your child continue to wear a mask until your request for exemption is approved. Please contact your child's building administrator for any questions related to this process.

<https://forms.gle/uHYeFcL4FdLU55nd7>

Q: What current health and safety measures does the district have in place to protect against COVID-19:

A: Hanover Public School District has several COVID-19 mitigation measures in place. Student desks are arranged to promote physical distancing in all buildings, and seating charts are required. Hand sanitizer and disinfectant spray are available in each classroom. Students sanitize hands regularly throughout the day. Assigned seats are required in each building cafeteria. Deep cleaning measures are taken as needed in all buildings. Additionally, social distancing is encouraged among students in all buildings throughout the school day.

Q: What should I do if my child tests positive for COVID-19?

A: If your child tests positive for COVID-19, we ask that you notify the nurse at your child's school building as soon as possible. We also ask that you provide a physician's note or notification of a positive test for the school nurse. Additionally, your child will be required to quarantine for a period of ten days from the date of symptom onset or from the date of the positive test result if the student is asymptomatic. While quarantining, your child will be able to access all assignments through Firefly Blend or will be

provided with assignments to complete. Your child's absences will be marked as excused for the duration of his or her quarantine period.

Q: Will siblings of my child also need to stay home if my child tests positive?

A: Any siblings who are **unvaccinated** and living in the same household as an individual who has tested positive must quarantine for the same ten day period as the individual who tested positive. As long as the exposed individual is **asymptomatic**, he or she can return to school after the initial ten day quarantine. If an individual living in the same household as a confirmed positive is **vaccinated**, he or she can return to school. The individual can choose to be tested between 2 to 5 days after exposure.

Q: What happens if a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19?

A: All confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 are reported immediately to the Pennsylvania Department of Health by district nursing staff. Parents of students who are identified as a close contact to an individual who has tested positive will be personally notified by their building administrator and provided with options for their child. Close contacts will be identified in the classroom, on the bus, in the cafeteria, and in extracurricular activities. Additionally, deep cleaning measures will be taken in all classrooms and areas of the building where positive COVID-19 cases have been identified.

Q: What options are available for my child if he/she is identified as a close contact to an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19?

A: The following will be options if your child is identified as a close contact:

1. If your child is **vaccinated and asymptomatic**, he or she may continue with in-person schooling. We will require you to provide proof of vaccination for your child.
2. If your child is **unvaccinated and asymptomatic**, quarantining is recommended for 10 days from the date of exposure before returning to school. Your child may return to in-person learning with a negative COVID-19 test or wait the full 10 days before returning. You may choose to take your child to get tested on the 5th day of quarantine. As soon as you receive a negative test result, please contact us to provide proof and your child will be able to return to school. If you choose to keep your child at home for the duration of the 10 days, he or she will be able to access all assignments on Firefly Blend or will be provided with assignments to complete. These absences will be marked as excused.
3. **Unvaccinated and asymptomatic** students may continue with in-person learning. Students must report to the health room as soon as they arrive at school each day to meet with the nurse for a health screening.
4. **Unvaccinated, asymptomatic** students may continue with-in person learning without a face mask only if a doctor's note is provided stating a face mask cannot be worn. This doctor's note must be accompanied by a form completed by the parent/guardian. Please contact your student's building administrator for information regarding this process.

With all of the above options, we ask that you continue to monitor your child for signs and symptoms of COVID-19. If your child should develop any COVID-like symptoms, please contact your family physician as soon as possible.

Q: How will families be notified of positive COVID-19 cases?

A: A COVID-19 dashboard has been added to the District website and can be accessed under the *Information* tab on the homepage. This table reflects the number of active positive COVID-19 cases in each school building. The table will be updated on a daily basis by the health care professionals. Once an individual has been cleared by a doctor and provides the District with a doctor's note to return safely to school, the case will be removed from active status.

Additionally, parents and guardians of all students in grades K-6 will be notified of positive cases because at this time, not all students in these grades are able to be vaccinated due to the age requirement for vaccination.

Q: Will my child be able to continue to participate in athletics if he or she is identified as a close contact?

A: If your child is identified as a close contact, he or she will be able to continue participation in athletics but will be required to wear a mask when practicing. Masks will not be required to be worn during athletic contests. The exception to this rule is regarding football players. When members of the football team are wearing both a helmet and a mouthguard, a mask should not be worn.