

## HSD Communicable Disease Management Plan and COVID-19 Specific Guidance

The Hillsboro School District has the following School Board Policies which address communicable diseases as they relate to staff – [GBEB](#), [GBEB-AR](#)

The Hillsboro School District follows the [Communicable Disease Exclusion Guidelines](#) from the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) and the **COVID-19 Specific Communicable Disease Guidance** below. COVID-19 is a mandatory reportable disease to the local public health authority. The district shall protect the confidentiality of an employee's diagnosis to the extent possible and consistent with federal and state law.

**Exclusion guidelines related to COVID-19:** Staff should stay home under the following conditions:

- Staff/students that are ill (**vaccinated OR unvaccinated**) who have a fever of 100.4 or higher, cough, chills, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or new loss of taste/smell should:
  - Stay home and notify your supervisor/school.
  - Seek testing either using a home rapid antigen test or a provider test.
- Students and staff diagnosed with COVID-19, should isolate at home for a minimum of 5 days from the onset of illness and 24 hours after fever is gone without the use of fever reducing medication. Your other symptoms should be improving. Students and staff are encouraged to wear a well fitting mask indoors at all times Days 6-10.
  - Staff should complete the [Staff Self Report Covid Positive Google Form](#)
  - Staff or students who test positive for COVID-19, can access centralized support through the [Positive COVID Test website](#) or by calling the COVID-19 Case Support Hotline at 866-917-8881.
  - Staff who are impacted by COVID-19 can access a special bank of sick leave. If they suffer a recurrence of COVID-19, access to that bank will be granted again.

### ***Exposure to COVID-19***

- Students or staff exposed to COVID-19 should closely monitor for symptoms and if they develop they should stay home and test.

**Prevention and Mitigation Measures:** Hillsboro School District will use the following tools/measure to help limit the spread of Covid-19:

### ***Face Coverings/masks:***

Mask wearing has proven to be an effective strategy for mitigating the spread of COVID-19 and continues to be one of the simplest ways to keep yourself and others healthy. Oregon has the 3rd lowest case rate of COVID-19 in the country, in part because of consistent masking. So even with requirements easing, **mask wearing is still encouraged indoors** for people with

compromised immune systems, who are at increased risk for severe disease, and/or who live with people who fall into one or both categories.

Mask wearing will be **optional for most people** in our schools and district buildings, with the following exceptions:

- Masks are required for staff while working in a classroom where medical procedures occur and/or while doing medical procedures. Students will have the option of wearing a mask in one setting. If parents and medical providers would like masking of students, staff will encourage mask wearing for that student. (Student Services will send a separate communication with more details about expectations in these classrooms).
- Masks may be required in other specialized settings, based on the needs of students.
- Masks are required in school health and isolation rooms and counseling centers.
- Masks are required of all visitors in our schools during the normal school day.
- Masks are required for unvaccinated staff members, per the stipulations provided to them in their exception approval meeting. If there are any changes to these stipulations, they will be communicated with the staff member and their supervisor directly.

Well-fitting **N95 and KN95** masks are the most effective at preventing the spread of COVID-19. N95 masks will be available for students or staff.

**Additional PPE** - Staff, who are performing tasks that require additional PPE per guidance from OHA will be provided to them. Additional PPE may include medical grade masks (*as defined by ODE as "disposable surgical/procedural face mask or respirator (N95/KN95)"*), gowns, face shields, gloves, plastic partitions or barriers. [Improper vs Proper Use of Gloves](#).

### **Airflow and Circulation**

Air handling units at all schools have been tested to ensure they are providing the necessary air exchanges per hour (ACH) to individual areas; all systems are set to have a minimum of six ACH. In areas where the ACH is below six, we have installed a portable air purifier. Also, all HVAC units that can fit a MERV 13 filter have them installed. If staff feel there are additional areas in need of an air purifier, they may request one from their supervisor.

### **Physical Distance and Cohorting**

Students are spaced three feet apart in classrooms to the extent possible, and are encouraged to maintain distance from others as much as possible in hallways, at recess, etc. At the elementary level, students eat in cohorts - many with seating charts - to limit the number of classmates to whom they have close proximity. At the middle and high school levels, additional spaces have been provided for students to eat lunch, both outdoors and indoors.

### **Frequent Handwashing**

Frequent handwashing and hand sanitizing are important basic steps to keep unwanted germs and bacteria from entering your body. Multiple opportunities are provided throughout the day for students and staff to keep their hands clean.

### ***Respiratory etiquette:***

- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or elbow
- Throw used tissues away immediately into a garbage receptacle
- Clean hands after covering coughs and sneezes.
  - [OHA 2257 Don't Touch Your T-Zone ENGLISH](#)  
(1) [Cover your cough/sneeze video](#)

### ***Cleaning of common surfaces:***

- Custodial approved cleaning products will be available for staff to use in their classroom to wipe down high touch areas as needed throughout the day.
  - **Students should NEVER use cleaning products.**
- Custodial staff will focus on high touch points when cleaning.

### ***Too Sick for School***

There are many reasons - including, but not limited to COVID-19 - students and staff may be [too sick to attend school in person](#). We will continue to request that those who are ill stay home until they are feeling better.

If a student becomes ill at school, they will be sent to the health room for evaluation. If they are exhibiting primary symptoms of COVID-19, they will be taken to the isolation room where they will be tested for COVID-19, once parent/guardian permission has been granted.

- If they test **positive for COVID-19**, they will be asked to **isolate at home for at least five days**. They may return to school once they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without the aid of medication and other symptoms are improving.
- If they test **negative for COVID-19**, they will be asked to go home until they are fever-free for at least 24 hours without the aid of medication and other symptoms are improving.

### ***Screening/daily health check:***

Staff will be trained in the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and will be provided guidance on when to stay home. Parents are encouraged to screen their student at home and have them remain home with signs of illness. Students identified as having COVID-19 like symptoms will be evaluated by a nurse or designated staff person in the isolation room. Parents should discuss with their health care provider and/or district nurse if their student is considered at a higher risk for complications from a COVID-19 illness

**Isolation room:** If a student develops Covid-19 like symptoms while at school, they will be isolated away from others until they can go home. The building nurse or health room assistant will monitor anyone who is in the isolation room. Students and staff may be tested with a rapid antigen BinaxNOW test if they develop symptoms at school. Parent consent is required before students can be tested. If the isolation room has dual purposes it should be cleaned thoroughly if used for isolation purposes and not used until appropriate air exchange has occurred.