

# Covid-19 Response Plan

## 2021-2022 School Year

The Hallen School updated its 2021-22 school year plan. We are committed to ensuring a safe, socially and emotionally supportive, and engaging learning experience for all of our students. To ensure the health and safety of students and staff the following COVID mitigation strategies have been in place:

- Face masks are required (must cover nose and mouth).
- Social distancing
- Daily Health Surveys
- Cleaning and sanitizing
- Contact tracing
- Desk shields for eating, drinking and/or a mask break
- Signage throughout the school building
- Students will remain in cohorts when changing classes
- Student stays home if exhibiting COVID symptoms

The plan is based on guidance from:

- New York State Education Department (NYSED) - [Health & Safety Guide for the 2021-22 School Year](#)
- Center for Disease Control (CDC) - [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)
- American Association of Pediatrics (AAP) - [COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools](#)

The health and safety of our learning community is our number one priority.

The Hallen School will continue to closely monitor developments regarding COVID-19 and modify our protocols as the research and data change. Your partnership in implementing the strategies outlined on this webpage will help to ensure that all students attend school for in-person learning every day.

## Face Masks

Consistent with NYSED, CDC, and AAP recommendations, all students, faculty, staff, and visitors will be required to wear an [approved face mask](#) while indoors on school property even if fully vaccinated. Exceptions include when eating or drinking, or when a mask cannot be worn because of a disability as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act

(42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.). Teachers will provide students with opportunities for mask breaks during the school day. Desk shield will be used to allow for mask breaks.

## **Breakfast and Lunch**

- Students will not be allowed to enter the cafeteria.
- Breakfast and lunch will be brought to their assigned homeroom.
- Students will eat lunch in their assigned homerooms.
- Desk shields will be used as an extra measure of protection along with social distancing when eating and drinking.

## **COVID-19 Symptoms and Screening**

Staff will continue daily health screening questionnaires. Parents should continue to monitor their children for COVID-19 symptoms on a daily basis. Most common symptoms of COVID-19:

- Fever or chills (100°F or greater);
- 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; and/or
- Diarrhea.

If a student has one or more COVID-19 symptoms, parents must:

1. Keep their child home from school.
2. Notify the school nurse.
3. Consult with their doctor to get their child tested for COVID-19.

Students may return to school when they are symptom-free and they have either (1) a doctor's note indicating they do not require a COVID-19 test or (2) a negative COVID-19 PCR test result.

School nurse will continue to follow the COVID-19 symptom management protocol to determine when students or staff need to be sent home and referred for testing.

## **COVID-19 Vaccinations**

According to the CDC, vaccination is the leading public health prevention strategy to end the COVID-19 pandemic. People who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 are at low risk of contracting symptoms or severe infection. COVID-19 vaccination among all eligible students as well as teachers, staff, and household members is the most critical strategy to help schools safely resume full operations. To ensure uninterrupted in-person instruction for students, the school supports having all eligible students, faculty and staff vaccinated to reduce the risk of infection and eliminate the widespread need to quarantine.

## **Visitors to Schools**

- Visitors to our schools will be limited to essential business (e.g., meetings, scheduled school events, picking up students during school hours, etc.).
- Visitors are required to wear a mask at all times while indoors on school property.

## **Safety Drills**

We will continue to conduct safety drills and steps will be taken to ensure physical distance during drills. However, students will be instructed that if there is an actual emergency that requires evacuation or lockdown, the priority is to get to safety. Maintaining social distancing in an actual emergency that requires evacuation or lockdown may not be possible and should not be the first priority.

## **Contact Tracing and Quarantine**

To avoid quarantining, The Hallen School strongly recommends all eligible students receive the COVID-19 vaccine. When The Hallen School is notified of a positive COVID-19 case, the school consults with the Department of Health (DOH) to identify students and staff who may be required to quarantine following close contact with a positive COVID-19 case. DOH retains the authority to direct individuals to quarantine, and the school is required to follow these directives.

The CDC defines a close contact as someone who was within 6 feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or longer over a 24 hour period and up to 48 hours before the infected person became symptomatic or was tested. Individuals who are not vaccinated and have close contact with a positive person will be required to quarantine for 10 days. A negative test result will not release a person early from quarantine.

Important change to quarantine rules: In the **K–12 indoor classroom** setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student. CDC guidance now provides that when all students wearing face masks have close contact with a positive COVID-19 case, the exposed students will not be required to quarantine if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) wore well-fitting masks the entire time. However, this exception does not apply to unvaccinated adults in the classroom setting. This change in guidance will significantly reduce the number of students required to quarantine as a result of exposure to COVID-19.

According to the CDC, people who are fully vaccinated do NOT need to quarantine after close contact with an infected person unless the vaccinated person who is exposed develops symptoms. However, fully vaccinated people should get tested 3-5 days after their exposure, even if they do not have symptoms, and wear a mask indoors in public (always in school) for 14 days following exposure or until their test result is negative. Individuals who test positive for COVID-19 will be required to isolate for 10 days following the onset of symptoms or, for asymptomatic individuals, 10 days following the test that produced the positive result. A negative test result is not required at the end of the 10-day isolation period.

## Hygiene, Cleaning & Disinfection

- Daily cleaning of classrooms, bathrooms, large gathering spaces, offices, and conference rooms.
- Cleaning and disinfecting focuses on high touch points such as tables, chair armrests, doorknobs, cabinet pulls, light switches, keyboards, etc.
- Our Director of Facilities has taken important steps to assure professional cleaning and sanitization of our facilities every day & night. This includes hospital grade EPA registered Viking Pure cleaner & disinfectant used throughout our building, an electromagnetic fogging process to kill COVID. The Viking Pure Disinfecting Solutions System, is a CDC and EPA Hospital Grade disinfectant aerosol spray and mist that effectively kills viruses and bacteria on contact. It is a hydrolyzed water solution, which is a green product-completely safe, with no adverse effect contacting skin, eyes, or lungs.
- Restrooms are cleaned throughout the day and disinfected daily.
- Custodial staff are trained in the use of PPE, personal hygiene and use of the new electrostatic disinfectant applicators.
- Stations for water bottle filling are available.

- Hand sanitizers with signage are placed at strategic locations throughout the school, and EPA-approved, school-safe cleaning products that are effective on Coronavirus are used throughout the school.

## Air Filtration & Ventilation

New filters were installed. Daily checks of the HVAC systems will be conducted by our Director of Maintenance to assure maximum fresh air exchanges throughout the building.

## Transportation

**NOTE:** Transportation for students with disabilities enrolled in 853 programs is provided by the school district. School programs, however, are involved in the embarking and disembarking of students.

The Hallen School **does not** set forth procedures for the transport of students for arrival and dismissal. The Office of Pupil Transportation in the district where the student resides should be contacted for more information regarding safety measures in place during transport. We encourage parents to **not** put their child on the bus if the student is showing signs of illness. Please keep your child at home for the day and contact your child's physician for evaluation. Absences related to concerns about COVID-19 infection should be reported to the school nurse (contact information below). School vans will be in use to transport students to community job sites but not for field trips. Students will not be allowed to go on walking trips at this time. **Virtual field trips will be encouraged.**

## Contact Information

**Phone- Main Line: (914) 636-6600**

- **For questions about this reopening plan**, please contact our Executive Director, Jennifer DiCosimo, [jdicosimo@thehallenschool.net](mailto:jdicosimo@thehallenschool.net) **EXT. 3033**
- **For questions about the building and facilities**, please contact our Building and Facilities Director, Denise Macchio, [dmacchio@thehallenschool.net](mailto:dmacchio@thehallenschool.net) **EXT. 3001**
- **For COVID-19 information and health services information**, please contact our School Nurse, Susan Dell'Aera, [nurse@thehallenschool.net](mailto:nurse@thehallenschool.net) **EXT. 3008**
- **For general questions about education services**, please contact our Principals:

Lower/Middle School Principal

Kim Bartolomucci - [kbartolomucci@thehallschool.net](mailto:kbartolomucci@thehallschool.net) **EXT. 3004**

High School Principal

Sergio Dávila - [sdavila@thehallschool.net](mailto:sdavila@thehallschool.net) **EXT. 3075**

- **For questions about technology**, please contact our IT Director/Data Protection Officer, Harold Gaudinier, [hgaudinier@thehallschool.net](mailto:hgaudinier@thehallschool.net) **EXT. 3053**