

# Hinsdale County School District RE-1

## School Operations Guidance

### 2021-2022



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# Introduction

The primary goal of the Hinsdale County School District (HCSD) is to ensure the health and safety of our students and staff. HCSD will continue to follow the most current medical and scientific guidelines. Public health guidelines may alter in response to new conditions including new variants of COVID-19 and vaccine development for children under age 12. We will continue to work closely with Silver Thread Public Health District to be flexible to the changing health and safety needs of our school community.

## Guiding Principles:

1. Provide a safe working and learning environment.
2. Provide high quality in-person instruction with adaptability for emergency situations
3. Provide support for the social and emotional needs of staff and students.

This School Operations Guidance follows recommendations provided by the Silver Thread Public Health District ([STPHD](#)), Colorado Department of Education ([CDE](#)) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment ([CDPHE](#)).

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## Public Health Measures

Lake City Community School will follow public health measures that support the health and safety of all staff and students. Layered prevention strategies support safe school environments and allow in-person learning to continue without interruption from illness and outbreaks. The Elementary and Secondary Schools have different age dependent learning needs, however our small class sizes and close knit community make it possible to respond to health needs efficiently and effectively.

## Student Illness

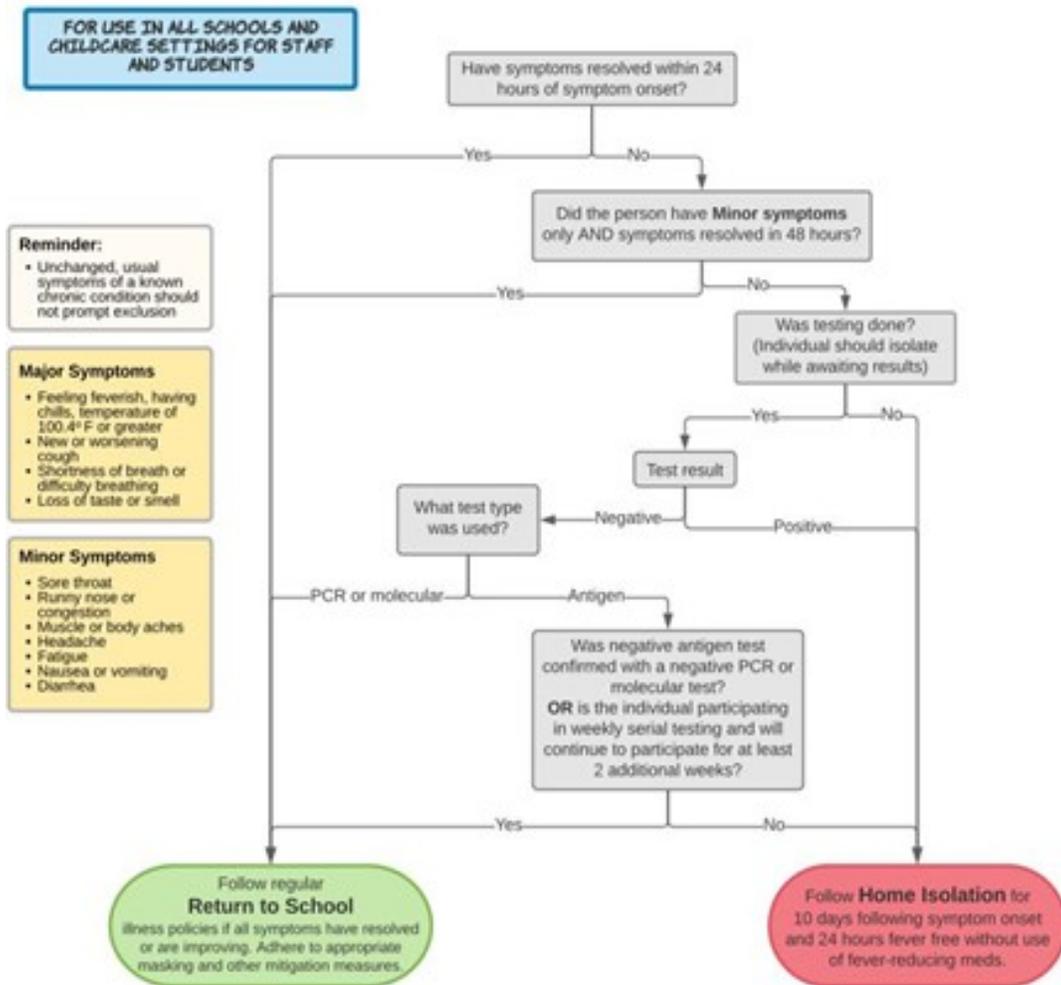
Parents are the first line of defense on illness and symptom screening and will continue with our daily symptom checker: [Student Daily Symptom Check](#) Please keep students home when not feeling well. If a student self-reports or staff member reports that a student is ill, then the school will require the parent to pick the student up from school. As a reminder, symptoms can include the following.

- 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

\* Major symptom

## Return to School Protocol

- Symptoms (minor) clear within 24 hours → return to school
- Symptoms (minor) clear within 48 hours → return to school
- Major symptoms or minor symptoms persist beyond 48 hours → consult a physician and get a COVID-19 test; may return with a negative test



## Vaccination Guidance

The CDC and CDPHE recommend everyone who is eligible get the COVID-19 vaccine. CDPHE has developed many vaccination resources that can be found here: [CDPHE Vaccination Information](#)

HCSD will not require students to be vaccinated to attend school. Families will choose for their children based on their own family situation.

We will continue student travel initiatives wherever allowable in the 2021-22 school year, and some of these destinations may have their own requirements regarding vaccination and COVID protocols. Staff and students who choose to join these trips will be required to meet the guidelines and requirements of the destination.

## Mask Guidance

HCSD will require all teachers, staff and visitors to wear face coverings in the general operation of the school day when inside the building. All students regardless of vaccination status will be required to wear face coverings when they are in the common areas, at large gatherings in our building or on school transportation vehicles. Clear dividers will be used in classrooms. We will follow the guidelines of any community we are visiting for extra-curricular events. Face coverings will not be required outside. We will not tolerate any discrimination of any individual who chooses to wear protective equipment that goes above and beyond recommendations and requirements.

## Physical Distancing

School structures and classroom setups will focus on maintaining an approximate six-foot distance between students. All staff and students will respect this distance in classrooms, hallways, waiting in lines, and in the cafeteria.

## Handwashing

Frequent hand washing supports personal health for all students. Frequent hand washing will be required to reduce the spread of all communicable diseases. When hand washing is not possible, each classroom will be equipped with hand sanitizer for staff and student use. The general rule is a thorough washing or sanitizing of 20 seconds or more. These practices mitigate the spread of all diseases in a school setting and are healthy practices to continue.

## Sanitation

We will continue to provide surface, floor, and high-touch surface cleaning on a daily basis. A day custodian will be on hand for high-touch surfaces, addressing classroom issues, cafeteria support, and other needs. At day's end, classrooms will receive a more thorough cleaning. The evening custodian will provide additional cleaning of halls, community spaces, and classrooms.

## Ventilation

COVID-19 and other respiratory illnesses are spread through respiratory droplets produced when we breathe, talk, sneeze, or cough. We have a brand-new ventilation system throughout our school that is equipped with high-rated HEPA filters that are checked and maintained on a frequent basis. Use of outdoor spaces is also encouraged.

## Quarantine Procedures

CDPHE has expanded quarantine procedures to avoid unnecessary interruptions to learning when there is a lower risk within a typical classroom exposure. All dates for quarantine will be determined based on the most recent date of exposure and CDPHE guidelines. Staff or students with a confirmed exposure to COVID-19 will have to quarantine from school for ten (10) days from the last date of exposure and return symptom-free\*\*, unless they meet one of the criteria below:

1. Exposed individual fully vaccinated.
2. Exposed individual has had confirmed COVID-19 in the last 90 days
3. If both the case and the contact were wearing masks properly over the mouth and nose during the time of exposure, the contact is not required to quarantine following a typical classroom exposure. The district nurse and building administrator will work with STPHD to determine if that is the situation.
4. If the School-Level Vaccination Rate (at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine) is at 70%+ of individuals age 12 and older within the school community, no one, including unvaccinated individuals, need to quarantine following a typical classroom exposure to a case. The district nurse and building administrator will work with STPHD to determine if that is the situation.

Testing is available to Hinsdale County residents - you do not need to be experiencing symptoms to be tested. Please call 944-0321 to schedule an appointment.

Appointments are available Monday-Friday between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

**\*\*OPTION:** Exposed staff or students may get a COVID-19 test after Day 5 and return symptom free after Day 7.

## Isolation of Cases

Students and staff who have a confirmed or probable positive COVID-19 case are required to isolate for ten (10) days. Isolation concludes when ten days have passed since symptoms first appeared, and the individual has no fever for at least 24 hours, and other symptoms have improved.

Key elements of isolation include the following:

- Stay home, except to get medical care
- Monitor your symptoms
- Separate yourself from other people and pets in your home
- Wear a face covering when you must be around people and pets
- Wash your hands frequently and avoid touching your face and eyes
- Clean and sanitize surfaces regularly
- Avoid sharing household items

## Outbreak Response

The CDPHE recently redefined the “Outbreak” definition for schools. A school outbreak is defined as five (5) or more cases in a 14-day period. We will respond to outbreaks with contact tracing and individual and/or class quarantines. Additionally, all spaces that had COVID-19 individuals will have a deep cleaning by custodial staff. The Hinsdale County School District will continue to work with Silver Thread Public Health District in its communication and response to staff, students, and community members.

## Serial COVID-19 Testing

HCSD will provide optional Tuesday testing for all students who opt-in for weekly testing.

Testing helps allow less mask wearing while at school (ie: not while in their classroom). All

staff and students can access testing while at school at any time during the week and are encouraged to do so especially if they have travelled or are unvaccinated. Students participating in extra-curricular activities may be offered additional testing

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## Learning Models

### In-person Learning

Hinsdale County School District is an in-person learning community committed to experiential learning and strong relationships between staff and students. The primary focus and learning model for the 2021-22 school year will be an in-person model that increases student interaction

Daily attendance is expected in-person.

- All learning is complemented by support posted in Class Dojo and/or Google Classroom.

### Emergency Remote Learning

In the event of a larger quarantine that affects a larger group of students, such as those ages that are not eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine, HCSD will support emergency, short term remote learning.

- A schedule of online learning times will be developed specific to student needs;
- All students and staff join class remotely but may have independent work for periods of time;
- All learning is supported by Google Classroom, Class Dojo and Google Meet;
- Students can meet daily attendance requirements (present) by remote presence and activity completion.
- Individual absences due to illness will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

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## School Structures

### Student Entrances/Parking

- Reminder: Students enter through the main campus entrance. Drop-off and pick-up is now along our beautiful new sidewalk on 6th Street. Students may arrive at school as early as 8:05 a.m. Classes begin at 8:15 a.m.
- Students, staff and visitors will park along Silver Street.

### Cafeteria & Lunch Programs

Our National Hot Lunch Program will continue for the 2021-2022 school year and will be served as a grab 'n go meal or a full-service cafeteria meal. Menus will be sent out prior to the start of school. Students will order their lunches in the mornings with their teachers.

### Assembly Capacities

Capacities for our larger meeting spaces in the LCCS Gym or Commons will be determined by county health orders. As of August 2021, there are no restrictions on capacity limits; however, the following guidelines will be followed for large capacity events.

- Masks will be required for all in attendance.
- Whenever weather permits, we will conduct large assemblies in our outdoor venues
- Masks are not required in outdoor venues.

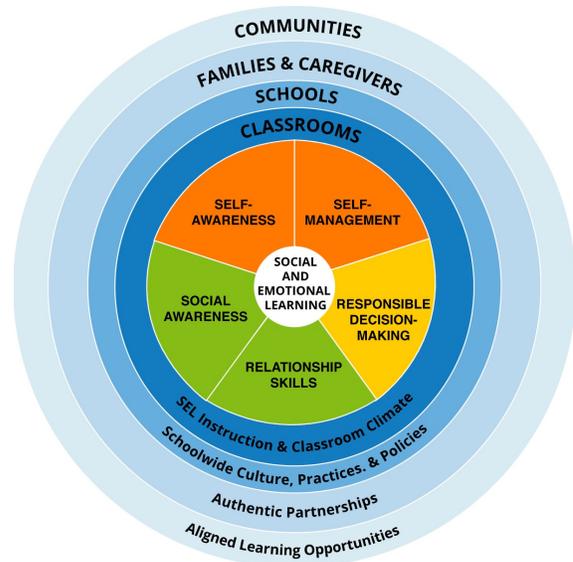
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## Mental Health and Well-Being of All

### Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)

HCSD empathizes with the COVID fatigue and anxiety shared in our community. As we experienced last year, emotions like normal anxiety decreases as we share information with stakeholders and especially as students settle into a safe, predictable learning environment.

We are also committed to the wellness of our teachers and staff and providing supports necessary so they can continue to meet the needs of students and families.




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## Parents & Community Involvement

HCSD is committed to reengaging parents and our volunteers back into the school community.

### Classroom Participation

Classrooms, particularly elementary grades, may host occasional displays of learning and celebrations where parents will be invited to attend in-person. Classes may change the venue to better accommodate the number of individuals and distancing requirements. Masks will be required for such events when indoors:

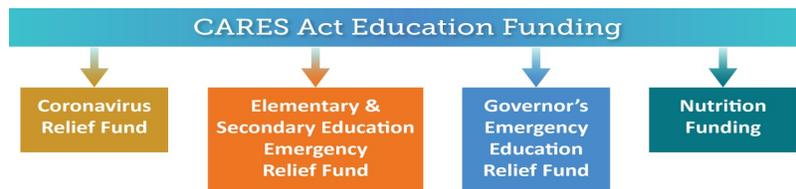
- Classroom celebrations
- Student-led conferences and presentations of learning
- Award ceremonies
- Back to School Night

### School Visitors/Classroom Volunteers

All school visitors must check in with the main office. Classrooms will support community visitors for presentations and partnerships. Depending on the situation, guests may follow presenter guidelines and share with students at a safe distance. HCSD will support regular classroom volunteers. These individuals will become a regular part of the classroom routine and will follow the mask guidelines.

## Family and Community Partnerships

- The district will continue to coordinate and provide internal or external services to help families maintain social and emotional health.
- The school district will use data as an opportunity to deepen relationships, and continuously improve support for students, families, and staff.
- The district will seek to maintain and strengthen two-way communication with all families. We want to learn more from students and families regarding their concerns and resilience. What has helped our families navigate this crisis? What do families need? How can families assist the school's mission?



The district has, to date, committed CARES Act dollars to the following allowable expenditures as related to the education, health and safety of students and staff.

- Sanitation tools and supplies
- Supporting staff with tools for blended learning models and continued professional development
- Online learning options for students
- Staffing to cover needs for health and social emotional wellbeing
- Staffing for intervention support for students when needed, including summer school

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# Appendices

## Appendix A: Primary Resources

- CDC: [Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools](#)
- CDC: [Guidance for Operating Early Care and Education/Child Care Program](#)
- CDPHE: [Practical Guide for Operationalizing CDC's School Guidance](#)
- CDPHE: [Cases and Outbreaks in Childcare and Schools](#)
- CDPHE: [Organized Sports](#)
- CDPHE: [Guidance for Wearing Masks](#)
- CDPHE: [Guidance for Isolation and Quarantine](#) | [How to Quarantine](#)
- CDE: [ARP ESSER Funds Fact Sheet](#) (PDF)
- CDE: [Best Practices Recommendations](#)
- CDE: [Best Practices for Temporary Remote Learning Options for the 2021-22 School Year](#)
- CDE: [Return to Learn Following Symptom Screening](#)
- CDE: [Addressing Symptoms at School](#)
- [American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
- [Silver Thread Public Health District](#)

## Appendix B: Health Screening Guidance

- LCCS COVID Self Symptom Check Screening Tool:
- CDC: [What do do if you are sick](#)