

# Henry Viscardi School Updated Reopening Procedures

Effective: April 1, 2022



Henry Viscardi School  
at The Viscardi Center



# Formal Guidance

The guidance that was issued from the CDC, NYS Department of Health, and NYS Education Department, taking into consideration the unique needs of the Henry Viscardi School, was utilized to drive our reopening plans and protocols.

- **NYSDOH Guidance: March 1, 2022**

[https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/03/school-guidance-03.01.22\\_0.pdf](https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/03/school-guidance-03.01.22_0.pdf)

- **NYSDOH Guidance: February 7, 2022**

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/new-york-state-contact-tracing>

- **CDC Guidance: January 13, 2022**

[Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools | CDC](#)

- **NYSED Guidance: August 12, 2021**

<http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/back-school/nysed-health-and-safety-guide-for-the-2021-2022-school-year.pdf>



# Updated Guidelines

The following provides updated procedures and protocols in the following areas:

- **Direct Contact & Quarantine: (Slides 10, 11, & 12)**
- **Face Coverings: (Slides 4 & 13)**



# Health & Safety: Preventative Actions

## **Monitoring Health Conditions**

- Schools must instruct staff to recognize signs and symptoms of illness in students and staff.

## **Face Coverings and PPE**

- Optional for all Individuals.
- Additional PPE will be provided based on specific job functions.

## **Physical Distancing**

- Schools must develop plans to maximize physical distancing whenever possible.

## **Management of Ill Persons**

- Persons with signs and symptoms of COVID-19 will be isolated for further evaluation.

## **Health Hygiene**

- Schools must instruct students and staff in proper hand and respiratory hygiene and provide necessary supplies.

## **Cleaning and Disinfecting**

- Cleaning and disinfecting procedures for the school are in accordance with CDC recommendations.



# Health & Safety

The following are listed as the 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
- Sore throat
- Nausea or vomiting; and/or
- New loss of taste or smell
- Congestion or runny nose
- Diarrhea

If your child is exhibiting any of these symptoms, they cannot come to school.

For more information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>



# Health & Safety: Temperature Protocols

## Staff and Student Daily Temperature Taking Protocols

- No staff or students with a temperature of **100.0 °F or greater** should come to school.
- Upon arrival, all students and staff will pass through a temperature scanner.
- Students with a temperature of **100.0 °F or greater** will be isolated in a separate space near the medical suite. A parent/emergency contact will be called to immediately pick the child up from school.
- Staff with a temperature of **100.0 °F or greater** will immediately be sent to the designated isolation area for further evaluation.



# Health & Safety: Response Team

## Response Team

The COVID response team consists of the COVID-19 Safety Coordinator, our medical department, and our school medical director. The response team will work closely with the Nassau County Department of Health to assist with contact tracing efforts, monitor public health conditions, and provide information.

## Important Contact Information

- HVS COVID-19 Safety Coordinator, Jessica Caggiano, Assistant Head of School: 516-465-1681 or [jcaggiano@henryviscardischool.org](mailto:jcaggiano@henryviscardischool.org)
- HVS Medical Department: 516-465-1560
- Clinical questions from school nurses & school medical directors can be directed to the Nassau County Department of Health: 516-227-9496.
- Questions from superintendents and administrators can be directed to 516-227-9408.
- General questions from the public will be referred to the New York State Coronavirus Hotline at 888-364-3065 or the Nassau County Coronavirus Hotline at 516-227-9570.
- Updates on Coronavirus in Nassau County can be received by texting COVID19NC to 888777 or by going to the Nassau County Website at <https://www.nassaucountyny.gov>.



# Health & Safety: Return Protocol After Illness

**After exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19, a student or staff member may return to school according to the following:**

- Once they receive a negative test result (*Laboratory or Over The Counter are acceptable*)
  - ✓ Symptoms are improving.
  - ✓ Must be fever-free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicines.
  - ✓ A note from HCP indicating the test was negative OR provide a copy of the negative test result.
- If they have been diagnosed with another condition and have a HCP written note stating, they are clear to return to school.

*Note: Over the Counter/Home Tests for COVID-19 are now acceptable for return to school/work after illness.*





# Health & Safety: Isolation Protocol After Testing Positive

After testing positive for COVID-19, a student or staff member must report such to the school, and may return to school according to the following:

## For individuals who had symptoms:

- It has been a minimum of 5 days since the individual first had symptoms;
  - ✓ It has been at least 24 hours since the individual has had a fever (without using fever-reducing medicine); and
  - ✓ It has been at least 24 hours since the individual's symptoms improved.
  - ✓ Individuals returning must wear a well-fitting mask (day 6 through day 10); and
  - ✓ **Individuals who cannot wear a well fitted mask for any reason, must isolate for the full 10 days.**

## For individuals who did not have symptoms:

- It has been a minimum of 5 days from test date if the individual is **asymptomatic**;
  - ✓ Day 0 is the day of positive test.
  - ✓ Isolation ends after 5 full days if **no symptoms** develop.
  - ✓ Individuals returning must wear a well-fitting mask (day 6 through day 10); and
  - ✓ **Individuals who cannot wear a well fitted mask for any reason, must isolate for the full 10 days**



# Health & Safety: Direct Contact Defined

**HVS will continue to contact trace to identify individuals who may have been exposed to a positive case in the school environment.**

- If a staff member or student has been in close contact (within 6 feet of someone for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone who has COVID-19, they must report such to the school.



# Health & Safety: Direct Contacts & Quarantine

**Regardless of vaccination status, individuals are not subject to mandatory quarantining provided the following guidelines are met:**

- Test immediately upon learning of exposure.
- Test again at least five (5) days after last date of exposure.
- Asymptomatic individuals can continue to attend school in-person.
- If symptoms develop, immediately self-isolate and report such to the school.

**The school will continue to make test kits, over the counter/home tests, available to all individuals who may have been exposed to a positive COVID-19 case.**



# Health & Safety: Direct Contacts & Quarantine

**Individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 90 days do not need to test:**

- Asymptomatic individuals can continue to attend school in-person.
- If symptoms develop, immediately self-isolate and report such to the school.



# Health & Safety

## **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

- Wearable equipment that is designed to protect from exposure to or contact with infectious agents. PPE that is appropriate for various types of patient interactions and effectively covers personal clothing and skin. These include gloves, face masks, protective eye wear, face shields, and protective clothing.
- Protocols and procedures were developed for students, faculty, staff, and other individuals to ensure appropriate PPE is used to protect against the transmission of the COVID-19 virus when on school grounds and in school facilities.

## **Face Coverings are Optional for All Individuals**

This is a personal decision, and as always, we anticipate that each individual's decision will be respected by others.



# Health & Safety: Physical Distancing

## Physical Distancing

### Classrooms

- Desks will be six feet apart to maximize physical distancing whenever possible.
- Polycarbonate barriers will be made available when needed.
- Students will stay with their group/cohort throughout the school day to the extent possible.

### Related Services

- Related services will be provided based on the individual needs of each student, following physical distancing and appropriate PPE guidelines.
- Polycarbonate barriers will be made available when needed.

### Hallways

- In-school movement in hallways will be reduced by utilizing signage (e.g., arrows, tape on floor, and postings).

### Cafeteria

- Students will eat their lunch in the cafeteria with their group/cohort while maintaining physical distancing guidelines. Thorough cleaning and disinfecting will be conducted in between lunch periods.



# Health & Safety: Physical Distancing

## Physical Distancing

### Restrooms

- Students' use of restrooms will be staggered and monitored by the restroom staff (CNAs). Restroom staff will assist students in proper hand hygiene following restroom use.

### Arrival/Dismissal

- **Students Arriving/Dismissing By Bus**
  - Transportation staff will coordinate a staggered routine to allow students to embark/disembark school buses safely and to ensure physical distancing.
- **Parents/Guardians Bringing/Picking Child up from School**
  - In an effort to limit the contact and entry of parents/guardians into the building, students will arrive and dismiss from the HVS main entrance. Students will be signed in/out by the HVS Security Guard.



# Health & Safety: Cleaning

## Cleaning and Disinfecting our School

Henry Viscardi School implemented enhanced cleaning and disinfection of surfaces (including high-touch surfaces) and will continue to provide this level of service in accordance with State guidelines. Such practices will include:

- Cleanings logs will be maintained.
- Additional staff hired to provide daily disinfecting services throughout the day and after students' departure.
- Use of approved cleaning and disinfecting materials, which includes disinfecting cloths to be used specifically for computers and other electronic devices.
- Disinfecting will occur in the cafeteria between lunch periods.
- Availability of disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer, and other PPE.
- Daily use of electrostatic sprayers for disinfection of classrooms and other areas.
- Current HVAC systems include economizers which provide fresh air to properly balance air flow. Additionally, the Henry Viscardi School uses MERV filters, which are more efficient in HVAC systems.





# Health & Safety: Drills

## Safety Drills Modifications

Education Law § 807 requires that schools conduct 8 evacuation and 4 lockdown drills each school year. Conducting drills is an important part of keeping students and staff safe in an emergency; however, steps should be taken to minimize the risk of spreading infection while conducting drills.

Regardless of the modification used when conducting a drill, students should be instructed that if it was an actual emergency that required evacuation or lockdown, the most imminent concern is to get to safety. Maintaining physical distancing in an actual emergency that requires evacuation or lockdown may not be possible and should not be the first priority.

Modifications to evacuation drill protocols may include, but are not limited to:

### **Full In-Person**

- Conduct drills on a "staggered schedule."

### **Fifty Percent Capacity**

- All students will receive instruction in emergency procedures and participate in drills on a day they are in attendance in-person.

Modifications to Lockdown Drills may include, but are not limited to:

- Conduct drills on a "staggered schedule."
- Conduct drills in classroom without "hiding" / "sheltering" but provide an overview of how to hide or shelter in the classroom.
- Conduct drills in the classroom while maintaining physical distancing.



# Social and Emotional Well-Being

## SEL and Mental Health

We recognize that many of our students, their families, and our staff may be experiencing a wide range of emotions, creating challenges for many during this time. Social and emotional well-being is our top priority in supporting our students during this school transition, not at the expense of academics, but in order to create the mental, social, and emotional space for academic learning to occur.

### **SEL at HVS will continue to be a focus to support all students, staff, and families by:**

- Providing Staff, Students, and Families with Social and Emotional Support.
- Continuing to Address Referrals to Identify Students in Need of Mental Health, Behavior, and/or Emotional Support.
- Providing Professional Development.
- Consulting with Students, Staff, and Families in Need.
- Continuing Implementation of Embedding an SEL Curriculum and Supports within the School Day.

**Mental Health Support TEAM Includes:** PGS (Psychology, Guidance, and Social Work) and DASA (Dignity for All Students Act) team in collaboration with Administration.



# Models of Instruction

## Objectives for the Models of Instruction

The primary objectives of the instructional models are to provide clear direction to our community on how HVS will provide instruction in a manner that continues to provide programs and services consistent with students' Individualized Education Program and supports the health, safety, and wellness of students and staff.

## Models of Instruction

- A. All Students In-Person: 5 days per week
- B. Remote Learning: 5 days per week

***NOTE: A hybrid schedule will not be offered.***



# Models of Instruction: In-Person

## **A. All Students In-Person: 5 days per week**

- All students will receive in-person instruction Monday through Friday.

### **In-Person (M - F): All Students**

- Students receive instruction and related services onsite.
- Teaching staff will remain in their classrooms to the extent possible (including specials area teachers).
- Students will stay in cohorts, to the extent possible, and will move from class to class.
- Cleaning will be performed between classes.



# Models of Instruction: Remote

## B. Remote Learning

There may be instances when full-time remote learning may be necessary during the 2021-22 school year. In such instances, HVS will transition to our Remote Learning Plan to provide continuity of instruction.

### Formalization of Remote Learning:

- **Schedule**
  - Elementary: AM and PM Live Virtual Instructional Sessions
  - Secondary: Live Virtual Instructional Sessions that are content specific and follow their typical schedule to the extent possible
  - + Related Services
- **Attendance Monitoring**
- **Track Participation**
- **Grading**
- **Assessments**
- **Communication/Feedback**



# Visitor Policy

**Visitor Policy:** Visitors will be limited to essential and/or necessary and follow the following health screening protocols:

- Visitors will complete a daily Health Screening/Entry Requirements Questionnaire.
- Upon arrival visitors will pass through a temperature scanner, and any individual who screens positive for COVID-19 exposure or symptoms will not be permitted to enter.
- Visitors must provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination or negative COVID-19 test result within the last 72 hours.

