



Welcome Back from Nurse Amy

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Welcome back! I have missed all of you and I cannot wait to meet all the new faces at Howard Gardner MI Charter School this year. Although the 2020-2021 school year may look a little different from what you are used to, I am looking forward to a great year. Heading back to school this fall will require schools and families to work together even more than before, to ensure your child's/children's health and safety. It is important for families to emphasize and model healthy behavior at home and to talk to your children about changes to expect this year.

Please note the following information that will contribute to a healthy environment for your student(s).

Parents are asked to **monitor student's health and not send a student to school** with any presenting symptoms.

According to guidance from the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and current CDC research "temperature checks alone are insufficient for assessing COVID-19 illness in staff or students". **Symptom screening** should consider the following set of symptoms for surveillance

- Two of the following: fever, chills, rigors, myalgia, headache, sore throat, new olfactory and taste disorder(s) OR
- At least one of the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing.

Daily upon arrival to school, a trained staff member will take each student's temperature (touchless thermometer) curbside prior to entering the building.

- For students driven to school, who records a temperature 100.4 F or above the student will go home immediately.
- For students taking the bus to school, who record a temperature 100.4 F or above, the student will be brought to the Medical Office /Isolation room (Nurses Nook) for further examination. If a student presents as unhealthy, parents will be called to pick up the student.

If a student gets sick during the school day, the Medical Office will be contacted for further assessment, involvement of parents and next steps. All health-related policies and decisions are determined by the school nurse and school physician.

The Medical Office area includes four rooms that will be utilized differently and have acquired additional supplies/equipment purchases, e.g. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), for this emergency period of time.

- A student entry area will allow for appropriate social distancing.
- The bathroom will be limited only for those entering the Medical Office for a significant health need
- There is a rear quarantine room, called the Nurse's Nook, that has an observation entrance door and an egress door.
- The School Nurse will retain her office in the Medical Office situated between the entrance area and quarantine room.

When a student or staff member screens or tests positive for COVID-19, the following guidelines will be followed:

- Symptomatic individual/child with test positive: exclude for 10 days from symptom onset and at 3 days after fever resolution (if present) and improved respiratory symptoms
- Symptomatic individual/child not tested: exclude for 10 days from symptom onset and at least 3 days after fever resolutions (if present) and improved respiratory symptoms.
- Symptomatic individual/child determined to have an alternate cause or illness by their primary medical doctor; exclude until symptoms resolve
- Symptomatic individual/child with test negative: exclude until fever-free for 24 hours (if present) and improved respiratory symptoms.

- Exposed and asymptomatic: exclude for 14 days from last exposure if remains asymptomatic.

The School is required to notify the PA Department of Health (DoH) of any staff or student screened or confirmed cases of COVID-19 and will be guided by the recommendations of the DoH, including the need for contact tracing.

- Families of exposed students will be contacted by phone, provided information to assist them in addressing their student's health condition, and followed up with on a regular basis.
- If others in the school were exposed, the Nurse will assess the situation based upon CDC and CHOP guidance and issue directives and communications to all affected.
- Regular updates to the school community will be provided at monthly Parent Forum meetings, CEO and Principal updates.
- Regular outreach to parents/guardians are planned throughout the school year. Parent and staff surveys have helped inform decisions for reopening the school and outreach will continue throughout the year.

Stay Safe and Healthy
Nurse Amy