



HGMICS Health and Safety Plan Update 3-18-21

Howard Gardner MI Charter School

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Health and Safety Plan Updates

TO: All Parents/Guardians

FROM: Joe Ross, Director of Facilities & Security

DATE: March 18, 2021

As we prepare for the resumption of five day in-person learning on April 6, 2021, we continue to enhance the HGMICS Health & Safety Plan that details the extensive mitigation and social distance steps we have taken to ensure the health and safety of students and staff.

Additionally, we continue to monitor COVID community spread state-wide and regionally, as well as reviewing the most current literature and data from empirical sources on the transmission of COVID-19. In Lackawanna County, the community spread has been trending downward for the last six reporting weeks and is currently at a level last seen in mid-October 2020.

On March 10, 2021, the *Journal of Clinical Infectious Disease* published a research study that found lowering the social distance requirement in schools to three feet can be safely adopted, with universal masking, without negatively impacting student or staff safety. This survey was the result of a 16-week study of K-12 schools that adopted the three feet social distance in their return to school, and was publicly supported by Dr. Anthony Fauci, Medical Advisor to the President Biden. At HGMICS, one of our strong attributes is our diligence in enforcing universal masking for students and staff.

In light of our return to five-day learning, HGMICS will add the following enhanced mitigation and social distance guidelines:

- **Thermal Scanner:** We have purchased a portable thermal scanner to improve the reliability and efficiency of student temperature checks. The thermal scanner is portable and can be relocated as needed. One staff person is needed to monitor scans, which do not require students stopping in front of the scanner as is the case with the lobby version. Students can walk at a normal stride and their thermal scan will be taken. We will begin using the thermal scanner commencing Monday, March 29, 2021.
- **First Temperature Check:** Students will enter through the entry door located by the flagpole. The thermal scanner, located inside the building, will read each student's individual temperature as they enter the building, with one staff person monitoring the scanner. Students will then proceed to their homeroom. If a student registers a temp of 100.4 or higher, they will be escorted to the Medical Office for evaluation.
- **Second Temperature Check-** Students will also have their temperature screened as they enter the cafeteria for lunch. If a student registers a temp of 100.4 or higher, they will be escorted to the Medical Office for evaluation.
- **Classrooms at 3 feet distance-** Floor markings will be installed at 3-foot intervals in all classrooms serving as a visual reminder of the requirement.
- **Cafeteria seating at 3 feet distance-** Seat markings will be placed on cafeteria tables to identify the 3-foot distance requirements and in a unidirectional pattern.
- **Universal Masking:** Diligent enforcement of the proper wearing of masks for students and staff will be strictly enforced at all times while on school grounds.
- **One Way Directional in Hallways:** Floor markings in the hallway will be increased and enforcement will continue for students and staff.
- **Medical Office Staffing:** In addition to Nurse Amy, a nurse substitute will be hired to assist with student health issues and to staff the Medical Office through the rest of the school year.
- **Symptom Screening:** Please refer to the symptom screening form posted on our website. If your student exhibits any symptoms, please keep them home from school that day. If they are experiencing symptoms, please send an email to amy.ryan@myhgsd.com and joseph.ross@myhgsd.com so we can monitor symptoms.
- **District Transportation:** HGMICS has contacted all District transportation providers and 100% of the drivers have been offered vaccinations. As per District transportation policy, students should wear masks at all times when on the bus/van.

We will continue to identify additional safety measures and will communicate any further changes in advance of implementation.

Thank you for your previous cooperation and anticipated cooperation with these new guidelines as we continue to strive to make our School a safe place for students and staff. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Marie George, TreeAnne McEnergy or me.