

Covid Response – HMS and You

How are we protecting our HMS community?

- All CDC guidelines, precautions mitigation techniques remain in place.
 - 6 feet social distancing
 - Masks for all those on HMS property
 - Screening prior to admission to the building
 - On site contact tracing
 - Dedicated Covid Resource officer and Covid response team
 - Partnership with CHOP Policy Lab and Project ACE- IT
 - Routine monitoring of current COVID-19 metric data from each county
 - Employees who do not need to be in direct contact with students will perform their job duties in other locations of the building.

What is Project ACE-IT?

Project ACE –IT stands for Assisting Childhood Education through Increased Testing. Developed by CHOP specifically to address the need for children to return to school during the pandemic, the program has partnered with schools and school officials in all 5 counties to educate, train and provide guidance and direction to schools as we begin the in-person education process.

Part of the reintegration is onsite learning; CHOP has enabled HMS to send our Covid Response Team members to training on the Binax Now rapid COVID-19 test. These trained individuals have demonstrated competencies to CHOP standards on the administration of the Binax Now rapid test.

How accurate is the Binax Now test?

98.5% accuracy

Who does not get tested?

Per CDC guidelines, anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days does not get tested but still gets screened. Once the 90 days is completed, onsite testing resumes.

I've heard the test is painful. Will it hurt my child?

With the evolution of rapid testing, the Binax Now test only needs to be inserted into the first 1/3 (1/2 inch or so) of each nostril. Specimens are collected in each nostril by swabbing with a cotton swab (Q-tip size). Each nostril is swabbed in a circular motion for 10 seconds. Most people report their nose running or feeling like they have to sneeze during or right after the test, as it tickles the hairs in our nose.

For those students who have oral/ nasal/ facial aversions, every effort will be made to collect a reliable sample as quickly as possible. If you feel this may be a concern for your child, you may help your child understand the process by explaining the test as well as using a cotton swab in or around their nose. This may prepare them for the sensation of the test as well as provide our staff with valuable information when performing the test. If you are transporting your child for therapy, arrangements can be made for you to perform the test on your child, especially if you have developed a system or procedure that works for you. Knowing of something that distracts your child may also assist with your child having a more positive experience with the testing procedure.

Will my child have to wait in the bus or the car until results are confirmed?

No. Your child will enter through the bus lobby entrance off Chester Avenue (back entrance). Upon arrival they will be screened and proceed to the nurse's station testing area. Unless requested specifically by a parent, the student will proceed to their designated area for PT/OT. Quarantining/ sequestering the student is not necessary given the other mitigation techniques we have in place.

What if my child tests positive?

If your child tests positive, they will be referred for confirmatory testing. Quarantine guidelines will be employed, usually 10 days. Your child will also be followed closely by Patty Mars to provide guidance and support in any way possible.

What if someone who has worked with my child tests positive?

If this occurs, you will be notified immediately and referred for testing at an alternate location. HMS does not perform confirmatory testing or testing on those that have symptoms of Covid 19. Onsite contact tracing through our extensive record keeping allows us to expedite the process. All health information is confidential and maintained according to HIPAA federal guidelines.

Who do I report to if my child has been directly exposed to someone with known Covid 19?

Patty Mars is the contact person for "all things COVID-19". She can be reached via email at pmars@hmsschool.org or by cell at 484-466-1148

Will my child have to wear a mask?

Yes. Masks are mandatory for all students, 1:1 nurse, parents and staff.

What PPE (personal protective equipment) do staff use?

All staff must adhere to the following:

- Masks at all times
- Face shield or goggles when within 6 feet of a student
- Gloves when skin to skin contact is likely to occur.

- Gowns or smocks when skin to skin or full body contact is likely to occur (transfers, personal care)
- Gloves and gowns/smocks are changed after contact with each student.

How is the building being maintained/cleaned between sessions?

- There are 4 alternating locations for therapy sessions. This allows for the secondary location to be used while the primary location is being cleaned.
- HEPA filters have been placed in each of the therapy areas.
- Air quality testing performed (Fall 2020)
- EPA approved cleaning products and apparatus (Covid 19 compliant)
- Clear communications between environmental services, facilities staff, clinical services and PT/OT staff once an area has been used and requires cleaning.
- Wednesdays have been dedicated as the deep cleaning days. No staff or students in the building that day
- Any building maintenance will be taking place primarily on Wednesdays to limit those outside of the HMS community coming in close contact with HMS staff or students.

What if my child routinely has a runny nose due to allergies, does that mean they won't be allowed in?

Not necessarily, if this is a concern for your child, or becomes a concern, please notify Patty Mars, the Covid Resource Officer to discuss on a case-by-case basis.

If I have a 1:1 nurse and they cannot come in on a session day can I come in with them instead?

Yes

If I have a 1:1 nurse but I have a replacement nurse for that day, can they still come in?

Yes. We will need to be notified as soon as possible. You may call Patty at 484-466-1148 anytime. You can help by asking the agency to fax over the nurse's credentials/ attestation form to our HIPAA compliant fax so we have it on site as soon as possible that day.

What if my child 1:1 nurse tests positive and my child tests negative?

They will both be dismissed from the building.

If positive and dismissed for the day, where will my child wait if I can't get there right away, due to traffic or other unforeseen issues?

Your child will be placed in a room and attended to by an HMS nurse or PCA.

What if we use bus transportation and we are dismissed for positive test, how does my child get home?

You will need to ensure arrangement have been made for your child's transport home. School district buses have not committed to transporting any Covid (+) cases home