

Mitigation Plan

Although Highland has put in place protective measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19, we cannot guarantee that your child will not become infected with COVID 19 (especially considering the possibility of pre-symptomatic and asymptomatic spread). Your child's physical attendance at school, together with other students, inherently increases the risk that your child, you, and/or your household members will contract COVID-19, notwithstanding any precautions taken by the school.

Highland has developed the following mitigation plan. These best practices are meant to help mitigate the spread of Covid-19 in the Highland Community (based on guidance from the CDC, the Arizona Department of Health, the Pima County Health Department, and others). It is important to note that, since Covid-19 is a novel (or new) virus, our mitigation plan may evolve as time progresses based on new data and guidance from county, state, and national health departments.

Parent/Guardian Responsibilities: Physical attendance at Highland is wholly voluntary and brings inherent risks to your family and other Highland community members. Highland cannot wholly control the conduct of the students, or guarantee that they and their parents will follow safety protocols and procedures, or prevent infected students from attending and potentially spreading COVID 19 to children, directly or indirectly (despite the mitigation plans in place). We must rely on parents to be an important partner in our Covid-19 mitigation efforts. One of the most vital responsibilities that families have during this pandemic is to not bring students to school if they have any symptoms of a communicable disease. Knowingly sending a sick child to school is putting the other students and staff at **significant** risk. We are relying on the school and families to work together to help preserve the health and well-being of the Highland community. Specific details regarding parental responsibilities are listed below.

At Home Morning Temperature Checks: To help prevent the transmission of Covid-19 and other transmittable diseases, staff and students MUST perform daily temperature checks before coming to school using a reliable thermometer (oral or ear). Anyone with a fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or above cannot come to school. **NOTE:** All families must have a working thermometer. If you cannot afford a thermometer, the school will provide one.

At Home Health Checks: If staff or students have ANY SYMPTOMS of any communicable disease, they should not come to school. If the student, staff member, or anyone in their household is showing any signs of Covid-19, please check with your health care professional. According to the Arizona Department of Health Services, "People with these symptoms may have COVID-19:

- 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

This list does not include all possible symptoms. Public Health will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19." For more information, please go to

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

- Arizona COVID-19 Hotline: 1-844-542-8201

If your child is not attending in-person schooling due to illness, please send a message to the teacher via Remind to let her know of the absence and the reason why (e.g. list the symptoms).

Positive Covid-19 Diagnosis (or Contact with a Diagnosed person)- If anyone in the staff or student's household has tested positive for Covid-19 or has come in contact with someone who has tested positive, the school must be contacted immediately. The student or staff member cannot return to school until he/she has been given clearance to do so by the public health department or corresponding health care professional. Students should not come to school if Covid tests are pending. Please see the Arizona Department of Health Services 'Release from Isolation' Guidance. <https://www.azdhs.gov/documents/preparedness/epidemiology-disease-control/infectious-disease-epidemiology/novel-coronavirus/public-resources/release-from-isolation.pdf>

Sickness at school: If your child develops a fever or any symptom of a communicable disease, we will be contacting guardians immediately and the student must be picked up as soon as possible (within 1 hour).

Return to School After General Illness (e.g. fever, diarrhea, nausea or vomiting): If students or staff have any of the symptoms of Covid-19 listed above, it is suggested that they contact their health care professional and follow the guidelines listed above as necessary. In illnesses unrelated to Covid-19, if students or staff have a fever over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, have diarrhea, or are vomiting, they must not return to school until they have had no fever or other symptoms (e.g. diarrhea or vomiting) for at least 24 ***without the use of medicine.***

Student Drop-Off Procedure: Students will be asked about their general health and have their temperature checked before they enter the school campus. In order to avoid congestion at the temperature-station at the main gate, students must wait in the car until directed by a staff member at the front gate. Parents will wait in the car until their student has their temperature checked using a non-touch thermometer. If a fever is detected, we will use a more accurate ear thermometer. If a fever or other signs of illness is detected, then the student will return to their car and must not return to school until they have had no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of medicine AND have not vomited or had diarrhea symptoms for at least 24 hours. Since non-touch thermometers are not as reliable- it is essential that everyone check their temperatures daily before coming to school.

Face Mask: All staff and students will be required to wear a face mask while at school.

Handwashing: Proper handwashing procedures will be taught to students and staff. Frequent handwashing procedures will be enforced. Additional sinks have been placed outside to allow students to wash their hands before they enter the building and before they leave for home.

Social Distancing: Masked student seating will observe 3 feet social distancing guidelines. Students and staff will also be required to observe 3 feet social distancing guidelines throughout the campus to the best of their ability.

Visitors: In order to protect visitors, students, and staff, visitors will be limited (including guardians and non-essential visitors). Student pick-up and drop off-will take place at the front gate. Parents will not be entering the campus. If you would like to talk with your child's teacher, please use email or Remind to set up a time to talk during. You can also communicate via email

and Remind. All people entering the school campus must be wearing a face mask and practice safe social-distancing

Sanitized: Equipment will be sanitized as frequently as possible (including high touch surfaces like door knobs, toilet handles, and sink handles.)

Individual Supplies: Students will have their own school-provided individual supplies at their desk to limit communal supply gathering.

Classroom Separation: Classroom schedules (including breaks, pick-up, and drop offs) will be staggered to minimize interaction and possible infectious spread between classrooms.

Students will only be allowed to bring limited items to and from home. Because items being brought back and forth increase the possibility of spreading infections we will be limiting item transfer. Transferred items will be limited to water bottles, lunch personal medication such as inhalers, and extra clothing replacement. Disposable lunch bags and easily sanitized lunch items should be used as much as possible and should be sanitized daily. The refrigerator will not be available for students. ***Please do not bring backpacks. NO TOYS are allowed.***

Water: Due to safety concerns, water cups and water fountains cannot be used. Each student is responsible for bringing their own water bottle. ***Water bottles will be left at school until a replacement one has been brought in.*** It is the responsibility of each family to clean and sanitize water bottles. We suggest you bring 2 bottles in on the first day and then every day change one out to take home and sanitize. Water bottles must have the student's name on them.

Pool Testing: Highland will be offering weekly Covid-19 pool testing to all staff and students. This testing is sponsored and funded by the Arizona Department of Health and managed by Concentric. If the pool test is positive for the classroom, follow-up rapid tests will be administered within a day or two. This is a voluntary program.