



COVID Q&A

Q: Is Habersham opening August 19th for in-classroom teaching?

A: Habersham is confident in its decision to open its doors on August 19, by following necessary recommendations to keep our staff and children safe. The school is relying on the expertise of the medical task force to evaluate the virus's impact on our community and the response needed to safely operate the school.

The Habersham School has the flexibility to adjust swiftly to changing circumstances, so we can pursue the best possible solution and adjust if needed. Also, our close, personal relationships with families give us the foundation of trust to craft solutions for individuals who have extenuating circumstances. As a small, private school, we can accommodate the legitimate needs of some without compromising what is best for most.

Q: Will students be required to wear a mask?

A: Students and teachers are certainly welcome to wear masks at school. However, as stated above, we have relied heavily on our medical task force to inform us as to the best policies as it relates to students and teachers in masks. Their unanimous position, based on their ongoing professional inquiries as doctors, a hospital system compliance officer, and as a member of Governor Kemp's Reopen Advisory Team for Reopening Savannah, is to make masks optional. We are aware of the sensitivity of this issue, and we will continue to evaluate this decision as circumstances develop.

Q: What happens if a child comes down with a fever?

A: Since we will be taking temperature at the door each day, we will not permit students who are running a fever to enter the school that day. If a child comes down with a fever during the school day, he or she will be isolated from other children, excused, and will return home.

Q: What happens if a child's family member has COVID and the child has been exposed but does not currently show symptoms?

A: We ask that families help us monitor their children's exposure to individuals who have tested positive for COVID and work with us individually to create solutions for that particular family and circumstance that protect both that child and our community as a whole. If children need to isolate due to exposure, we are prepared to provide for that student's needs while they isolate at home.

Q: What happens if a THS teacher, staff, or student tests positive for COVID?

A: The school requires that anyone in our community who tests positive for COVID and is asymptomatic, quarantine at home for 10 days, before they return to in-person school. For those who test positive and are symptomatic, the school requires a 10-day quarantine and at least 3 days with no symptoms. The school will make necessary accommodations for those staff members and students required to stay at home.

Q. What are the three levels of community infection that THS refers to?

A: These levels are outlined in detail [here](#).

Q: Where do we stand right now?

A: We are currently in Scenario 2, details of which are available on the COVID tab of our website.

Q: What criteria will the school use to determine that the situation is more severe and requires us to transition to our Level 3 Mode?

A: Our task force will determine when the current data on infection and spread make it necessary for us to take further precautions and transition to Scenario 3. Their close access to detailed, dynamic, and nuanced information, and their professional judgment in consultation with other experts provide us with the best possible guide to this decision. Specific metrics for decisions can, themselves, change as we gain new information and understanding of this disease, how it spreads, how it affects children, the efficacy of masks in preventing transmission, etc.

Q: What if our student or immediate family member is immune-compromised?

A: For families who must keep their children at home, we have a team preparing an at-home option. Please contact Max Belz at mbez@thehabershamschool.org by August 5 if you need accommodations.

If you should have any questions or concerns, or if you have a particular medical situation that requires further discussion and consideration, please reach out to Max Belz at mbez@thehabershamschool.org. We would be happy to discuss your particular situation or needs.