



COVID Protocols

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to provide a clear and succinct path of action for The Habersham School and its families as we navigate illness within our school community. As always, families are encouraged to create good routines for their children in conjunction with their physicians. Especially during this pandemic, please help your student maintain a strong immune system with plenty of rest each night and a healthy diet.

Policy

All policies follow the time periods recommended by the Georgia Department of Public Health as of 10/2/10.

“Close Contact” is defined as living in the same household as someone with a positive COVID-19 test, caring for someone ill with COVID-19, prolonged exposure of 15 minutes or more while within 6 feet, or having direct contact (kissing, hugging, sharing of utensils, being coughed on, etc.)*

1. If a faculty/staff member or student tests positive for COVID:

Symptomatic

- Individual: Stay home until 24 hours after recovery (no fever; respiratory symptoms have improved) **AND** at least 10 days since the first positive test.
- School: Inform individuals who had close contact *as defined above*. Deep clean classrooms where infected individual was present. Encourage increased hand hygiene with regular hand washing and sanitizing.

Asymptomatic

- Individual: Stay home until 10 days after the first positive test, self-monitoring for possible development of symptoms.
- School: Inform individuals who had close contact *as defined above*. Deep clean classrooms where infected individuals were present. Encourage increased hand hygiene with regular hand washing and sanitizing.

2. If a faculty/staff member or student or has *close contact* with someone who is COVID positive:

- Individual: Isolate for 10 days if you have had close contact *as defined above* with someone with a confirmed positive COVID-19 test. While we regret that this may cause hardship for some families who need to obtain child care, appropriately protecting the community must be our highest priority during this pandemic.
- School: Deep clean classrooms where an infected individual was present. Encourage increased hand hygiene with regular hand washing and sanitizing.

3. If a faculty/staff member or student develops COVID-like symptoms

- Individual: You may return to school when you have been fever free for 24 hours. We encourage all individuals to consult with their physician as to treatment and testing for COVID or any other illness.
- School: Deep clean classrooms where infected individual was present. Encourage increased hand hygiene with regular hand washing and sanitizing.

Multiple cases

In the case that multiple individuals in the same group (class or grade) develop COVID simultaneously, we reserve the right to adjust the group's schedule in order to minimize contact with others in the school, to include temporary At Home Learning if necessary.

At-Home Learning/Teaching

Students: During quarantine, students will continue learning via the At Home Learning option unless they are ill. Students must comply with all At Home Learning Policies & Procedures. Absence policies apply equally to On-Campus and At-Home students.

Faculty/Staff: If a teacher is teaching from home, he or she is able to give instruction, lead discussion, answer and ask questions, etc. A supervisor in the classroom facilitates the technology and provides classroom management as needed.

Notification

- If an individual tests positive, we will notify those who work or attend school in the building.
- If an individual tests positive, those who have had close contact *as defined* above with the individual in the 48 hours prior to onset of symptoms will receive additional notification and instructions.
- If your student tests positive, please notify the Dean of Students & Families mbez@thehabershamschool.org so that we can take the appropriate precautions for the rest of the community.

Privacy

We respect the privacy of teachers, staff, students, and families. Information will be shared using language that gives as little personal information as is practicable. We appreciate your consideration as well.

Questions / Concerns

We encourage all students, parents, teachers, and staff to communicate openly and candidly with administration. Input, questions, or concerns are always welcome and will never be viewed negatively. We are walking through this as a community, and the best solutions require a full range of perspectives. We ask your understanding that when faced with decisions, all choices carry both pros and cons. As administration continues to strive to make the wisest choices under the circumstances, we appreciate your prayers.

References

*Georgia Department of Public Health; Center for Disease Control

Revision

The Habersham School reserves the right to amend or change this policy at any time. Changes will be communicated to families in the Post and on our website's COVID-19 page.

Revised: 10/8/2020