



**HARRISBURG
ACADEMY**
LEARN BOLDLY

COVID-19 Response, Part III

2021-22 School Year

October 15, 2021

Dear Academy Families,

We hope this letter finds you well and ready for a fantastic weekend. We write today with an update from the Pandemic Response Team, which continues to meet weekly in an effort to proactively protect our community. As we look towards cold and flu season, we have carefully considered how we can expand our protocols to safeguard in-person instruction alongside the physical and social-emotional health of each individual. Within this release, we review our quarantine, sick, and communications policies, as well as provide updates regarding vaccination status, the Magnus Health App, and athletics. As we approach the winter months, our Pandemic Response Team remains committed to implementing our health and safety plan with fidelity and reliability. We remain thankful for the continued guidance of our Physicians' Advisory Council.

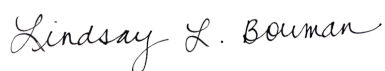
As we approach the end of the first quarter, we are exceedingly grateful for the presence of each of you. Our community is strong, vibrant, and made better by your involvement. Despite the continued evolution of COVID-19, our students are thriving, both in the classroom and through their participation in clubs, after-school activities, athletics, and the arts. Our teachers continue to create a nurturing environment, meeting the individual and collective needs of our students. All our HAPA volunteers foster a greater sense of community as they execute carefully crafted initiatives such as the Book Fair, and other upcoming events, which continue to lift spirits and provide memorable experiences for members of the Academy community. We appreciate your continued trust in the value of a Harrisburg Academy education.



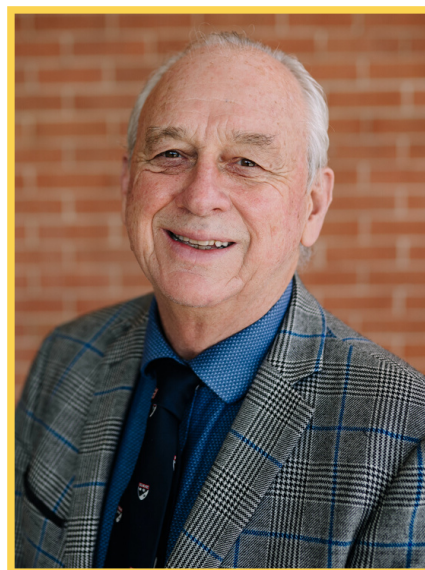
Adrian Allan
Head of School



Abby Mahone, Ed.D.
Assistant Head of School and Head of Early Childhood and Lower Schools

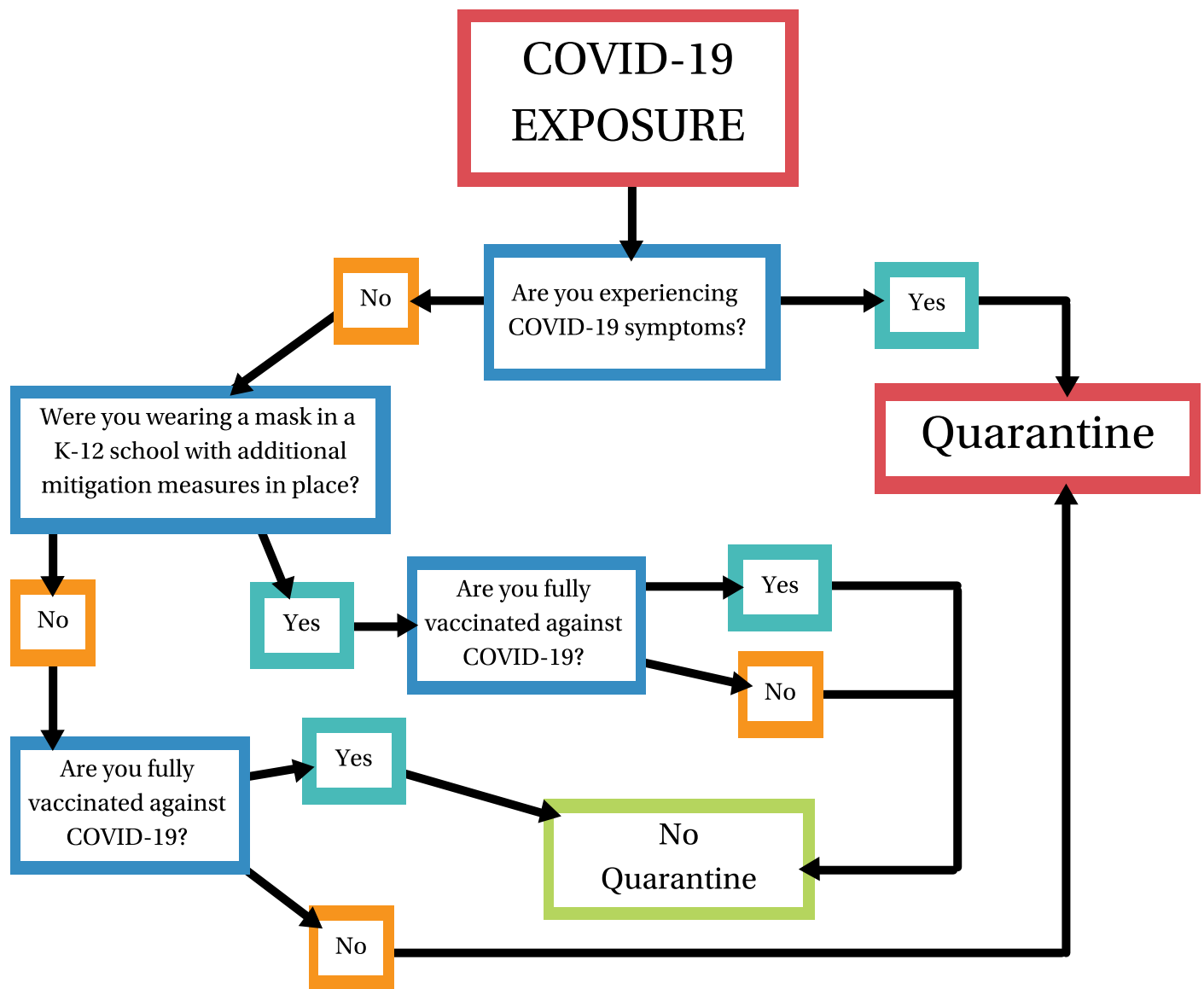


Lindsay Bowman
Head of Middle and Upper Schools



Quarantine Policy

As COVID-19 variants with higher transmission rates emerged at the beginning of the 2021-22 school year, Harrisburg Academy modified our policies regarding quarantine to follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which stipulate that quarantine measures are not required if a tiered mitigation strategy is in place regarding the possibility of **student-to-student** transmission. In the case of **adult-to-student** transmission, all unvaccinated individuals with close contact must quarantine. Vaccinated individuals do not need to quarantine unless they exhibit symptoms. Please review the graphic below to refamiliarize yourself with our quarantine policies.



Sick Policy

As we approach cold and flu season, we ask that you review Harrisburg Academy's sick policy. If you have any questions about your child(ren)'s ability to attend school, please contact Nurse Catherman directly. If your child must remain home from school, please communicate this information to attendance@harrisburgacademy.org. Any student who misses three consecutive days of school must provide a doctor's note to return to campus. We appreciate your cooperation as we work to preserve the health and safety of our community.

During this unprecedented time, we are making every effort and taking every precaution to keep our school community safe and healthy. Toward that end, we are reaching out to families when students are sick and miss school. Please familiarize yourself with our student sick day policy and this helpful COVID-19 symptom monitoring tool. We hope that these will guide you in deciding when to seek professional medical advice and when your child can safely return to school.

PLEASE REMEMBER: If your student is out for three consecutive days, they **MUST** have a note from their healthcare provider clearing them to return to school.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Nurse Catherman at 717.763.7811 x1322 or via email at catherman.c@harrisburgacademy.org.

If your student has ONE of the following:

- Fever (at or above 100.4*)
- Cough
- Shortness of breath/difficulty breathing**
- New onset loss of taste
- New onset loss of smell

****Not related to allergies or asthma**

If your student has TWO of the following:

- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Fatigue
- Body aches
- Congestion or runny nose
- Chills/rigors (shaking chills)

If your child is experiencing COVID-19 type symptoms (either on-campus or prior to the school day), please contact your primary care provider for guidance. You **MUST** have medical clearance to return to school **AND** be fever and symptom free for 24 hours, based on guidance from the CDC and PA Department of Health.

Symptom

- 1) Vomiting (with NO other symptoms) in the last 24 hours
- 2) Diarrhea (with NO other symptoms) in the last 24 hours
- 3) Eye infection with discolored drainage
- 4) Itchy rash with fever at or above 100.4*
- 5) Itchy head with active lice
- 6) Hospitalized or in the Emergency Room

Standard to return to school

- 1) Able to keep two meals down without vomiting
- 2) No diarrhea for 24 hours
- 3) After seeing a medical professional and have medical clearance to return to school
- 4) Rash cleared, no itching, no fever for 24 hours **AND** medical clearance to return to school
- 5) Treatment initiated and no active lice (to be screened by the nurse upon return)
- 6) Must have medical clearance to return to school

Communications Policies

At the beginning of the 2021-22 school year, in an effort to make communication as pertinent as possible, the Pandemic Response Team modified our communications policies regarding notification of positive cases of COVID-19 within our community. This year, we are issuing targeted divisional communications. To be as transparent as possible, all pandemic-related updates, including divisional and full school communications, can be found by visiting the Pandemic Response Team Resource Board in ON Suite.



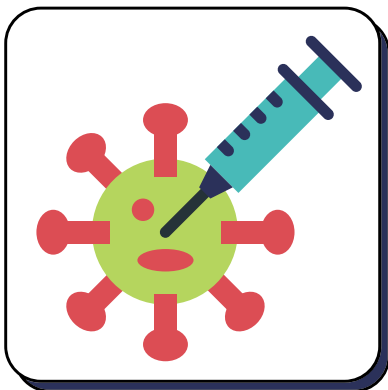
If a **student** tests positive for COVID-19, the following communications will be completed:

- Nurse Catherman and the division directors will call close contacts. All those with close contact will be asked to monitor for symptoms, follow quarantine requirements, and contact their physician for further medical advice including the potential need for testing.
- The division directors will send an email to all families in the affected student's grade informing them of the positive case.
- The Office of Communication will issue a communication informing families of the positive case within the appropriate division.

If an **adult** within the community tests positive for COVID-19, the following communications will be completed:

- Nurse Catherman and the division directors will call close contacts. All those with close contact will be asked to monitor for symptoms, follow quarantine requirements, and contact their physician for further medical advice including the potential need for testing.
- The Office of Communication will issue a community-wide communication informing all families of the positive case within the building.

General Updates



Vaccination Updates

We are pleased to report that 95% of our faculty and staff have received COVID-19 vaccinations. Although COVID-19 vaccination is not a requirement for attendance, Harrisburg Academy's Pandemic Response Team joins the Physicians Advisory Council and the CDC to encourage all eligible students and staff to get vaccinated to preserve the health and wellness of our community.

On September 24, 2021, the CDC issued a press release indicating their Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends

a booster shot for those who received the **Pfizer-BioNTech** COVID-19 vaccine for individuals in high risk occupational and institutional settings. As such, many of our faculty and staff have pursued this opportunity. We are thankful for their continued assistance in protecting our community.

Magnus Health App Updates

In anticipation of the FDA's announcement pertaining to vaccine eligibility for our students ages five to eleven, Harrisburg Academy will be completing the Magnus rollout to families in late October. We thank you for your continued support and patience.



Visitor Policy

To continue to protect unvaccinated members of our community, visitor access to classrooms remains restricted to after-hours appointments only. If a visitor must be on campus during the school day, access is limited to the front office area to the greatest extent possible. Conferences with families and meetings with external stakeholders will continue to be held through video conferencing when possible. For urgent business needs, administrators are regularly facilitating meetings off-campus if this can be accommodated.

Athletics Update

Harrisburg Academy **will** participate in the winter athletic season. Academy community members, visiting guests, and spectators will follow pandemic protocols, including health screening, temperature checks, and masking, when entering the building. Visiting guest access will be limited to only necessary areas of campus. Due to the current availability of vaccines, Upper School athletes will have the option to unmask when engaged in active play. Middle School athletes will remain masked at all times.

