



# Heritage Christian School

## 2021-2022 Pandemic Plan

### **MASKS**

As the impact of the pandemic on our community has significantly lessened over the recent months, our school mask and distancing policy will be relaxed from what we had in the last school year. Students will **NOT** be required to wear face coverings at any time, but masks will be **OPTIONAL** for those families who wish to wear them.

We now know that the child transmission rate of Covid-19 is less than 1% and the virus is primarily spread by adults. Any adult who has had both doses of the vaccine or who has had a documented positive Covid-19 test is considered immune at this time. **UNVACCINATED** adults, therefore, present the biggest risk for virus transmission and will be **REQUIRED** to wear a face mask when in the building.

We recognize that getting vaccinated is a personal choice and we appreciate the compliance of unvaccinated adults with the mask rule. Signage will be posted at main entrances as a reminder. Keeping the virus out of our school will help keep our children in school.

In the case that the community levels of Covid-19 rise, or we have a significant outbreak at HCS, this mask policy may change.

### **QUARANTINE**

Since the child-to-child transmission rate of the virus is so low, we have adopted a more relaxed approach to the quarantine rules that we had last school year. Quarantine will **NO LONGER BE REQUIRED FOR ASYMPTOMATIC INDIVIDUALS**. That is, only a student or employee who is ill will be required to stay home. Those who have a positive Covid-19 test will not be allowed back to school until released by their health care provider. As in the past, a child must be free of cough, fever, and vomiting for 24-hours without the use of suppressive medication to return to the classroom after any illness.

This policy will allow us to keep our classrooms in session and minimize the chance of mass remote learning. Should the number of positive cases in our school or our community rise significantly, this quarantine policy may be revised.

## **ABSENCES**

We realize that in the case of high rates of viral transmission in the school or community, affected students will have several absences higher than typically acceptable. We will not consider number of absences as a factor in requiring final exams to be taken. Instead, the only exemption will be merit-based and those students with an 'A' average will not have to take the final exam in that class. If a student is not ill, then they will be expected to attend school and the usual doctor's excuse policy will be applied in that an excuse will be required after the third day of absence. A parent will be notified if a student's absences are approaching an unacceptable level.

## **APPRECIATION**

We appreciate students attending school every day that is possible so we can work toward our mission. We also appreciate parents keeping any student home that is unwell.

We offer sincere thanks to those who have received vaccinations and have made a large impact on decreasing illness in our community. Keep in mind that the definition of established immunity may change, and additional immunizations may be needed.

As the situation evolves, our policies may change. We will keep everyone informed as changes occur.