

Horizon Academy 2020-2021
Frequently Asked Questions During COVID-19 Pandemic

Safety Protocols

- 1. What protocols will be in place to ensure the safety of students, faculty and administration? [Horizon Academy Return to Campus Plan](#)**
There will be a maximum number of 12 people per classroom/space. Classes will include the same group of children each day; we will restrict the mixing of students between groups as well as limit the amount of movement throughout the school day. Students' chairs within the classroom will maintain 6 feet of social distance. Students will have their own set of supplies and electronics, wash hands regularly, and sanitize equipment and frequently used surfaces. *Please click on the above link for more details.*
- 2. Will students maintain 6 feet of social distancing while at school?**
For the majority of the school day, students will maintain 6 feet of social distancing within the classroom. When activities are underway that do not allow for the social distancing, students will wear face masks or face shields.
- 3. How many students will be in a classroom? How many teachers within each classroom?**
There will be up to ten students in a classroom with a teacher and a teacher assistant.
- 4. How often will students, faculty, and administrators have their temperature taken throughout the day?**
Students, faculty and administrators will have their temperatures taken upon arrival and at lunch time each day.
- 5. Will someone remind my child to wash his/her hands throughout the day?**
Hand sanitizing and handwashing will be part of our daily routine. Students will use hand sanitizer upon arrival, will wash their hands every time they leave and/or enter the classroom, as well as before and after P.E., snack, lunch, and recess.
- 6. Should my student wear a mask each day to school? Will teachers/tutors be wearing face masks/face shields?**
Parents are asked to provide their student whatever face mask they prefer (school appropriate) for arrival and departure times. *Please do not provide gaiters or masks with valves.* Horizon Academy will provide each student with a Horizon Academy face mask and face shield. Face shields will be used during small group work and within the classroom, when needed. The Horizon Academy face masks and face shields will remain at school every day and will be cleaned at school.

At this time, all students will wear face masks throughout the day. When instructed, specifically during small group instruction, and as advised within the classroom, students will wear face shields. Faculty and staff will utilize Horizon Academy face masks or face

shields at all times, depending on the activity. All students and staff must comply with this expectation.

Students will be provided a hook at their desk for the storage of their face mask and face shield when they are not in use during the school day.

7. Will my student be sharing their desk, supplies or electronic device with other students?
No, each student will have their own desk, labeled supplies and electronic device, all stored within their own desk space.

8. How often will classrooms be cleaned?
Student desks and frequently touched surfaces in the classroom will be sanitized at least three times during the school day. In addition, handrails in the stairwell and security keypads will be sanitized on a continuous basis throughout the day. Doors to classrooms will remain open at all times to minimize the need for door handles to be touched. Classrooms will be sanitized each night by a UVC room sterilizer.

9. What if my student develops a fever overnight but we have no known exposure to the virus. May I send them to school?
Students who show any signs of illness, including fever may not attend school. Students who show signs of illness or have a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher will be sent home from school.

10. What are the symptoms of a student or family member that would require my student to stay home from school?
If a member of the household has symptoms of COVID-19, do not send your child to school. Symptoms include: cough, shortness of breath, fever, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, and/or loss of taste or smell.

11. What if a member of my family is exposed to someone with a confirmed case of COVID-19?
If anyone in a student's household tests positive for COVID-19, has been in close contact (defined as greater than 10 minutes of interaction less than 6 feet away) with someone with a confirmed diagnosis or significant symptoms of COVID-19, or has been advised by medical professionals to quarantine or has been notified by their local County Health Department that they were in contact with an individual infected with COVID-19, the parent(s) are asked to notify Principal Julie Altman. The school will provide directives on when the individual may return to campus, based on Johnson County Health Department guidelines.

Based on the circumstances, the student may be required to quarantine for 14 days. During this time, the student will attend classes remotely through Distance Learning.

12. Who will be performing all of the cleaning tasks that you're adding to meet the hygienic standard outlined by the CDC?

Teachers, teachers assistants, other staff members, and students will all play a part in keeping our school safe and clean. A professional maintenance crew will clean the building each evening.

13. Will you have a medical professional on staff?

No.

14. How will I be notified if there is an exposure on campus?

The head of school or her designee will notify the local health department, impacted families, staff, and the Board of Trustees in the event of an exposure on campus.

15. What if my student develops a fever or shows symptoms while at school?

Students who show signs of illness or have a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher will be isolated in a private area of the school while awaiting parent arrival for pickup. A member of administration or teacher will phone a parent/guardian/emergency contact to arrange immediate pickup of the sick child.

16. Will you be allowing visitors on campus?

Until further notice, visitors will not be allowed on campus.

17. What if I need to drop off my child's lunch (or homework, medication, tuition payment) at school?

Should the need arise for a parent to enter the building, parents should contact the Front Office in advance of arrival. In all cases, visitors will have their temperature taken, and be required to wear a mask while in the lobby or Front Office.

Please note, we will have emergency lunches on hand which include macaroni and cheese, as well as ramen noodles.

Programming

18. Will the programming change as the school implements protocol to maintain student and faculty safety?

The program and our approaches to meet the needs of students with diagnosed specific learning disabilities will remain the same. There will be more restrictions in place to protect the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff and families.

19. My student has developed some anxiety about this current pandemic. Will there be support in place to help students find balance with being vigilant but not panicked about this new normal?

Yes, our teachers are trained to recognize the signs of anxiety and can make quick shifts in how they approach topics that may induce anxiety. Our counselors and school psychologist will also be available to help monitor and counsel students who are expressing anxiousness.

20. Will students still be able to participate in Early Care, After-School Clubs and Extended Care?

Yes, all three programs will be active, although advance notice will be needed for Early Care so that we can provide appropriate distancing within the designated space. Students attending these programs will use the front drive entrance for arrival (Early Care), and departure (After-School Clubs and Extended Care).

21. Will Milo still be on campus?

Yes, Milo cannot wait for the return of students on campus and looks forward to seeing all of the children.

Daily Procedures

22. What will arrival and departure procedures be? Will there be crowding of students as they enter or exit the building?

Student arrival and departure will be divided between the front drive (1st-6th grades), the side entrance (7th-8th grades) and the back entrance (9th-12th grades), with zone spacing for arrival/departure. Upon arrival, students will have their temperatures taken before they proceed into the building where they will use hand sanitizer. Parents will remain in their vehicles while their student's temperature is being checked and can depart once their student is approved for arrival. Should a student be arriving late to school, he/she should use the front entrance.

23. We ride in a carpool with other students from Horizon Academy. What if someone in our carpool has their temperature taken upon arrival and has a fever above 100 degrees fahrenheit?

In the event of carpooling of multiple students/siblings, all students will go home if one student has a fever or symptoms of illness. Julie Altman, Principal, is our contact for COVID-19 absences and will provide guidance on when someone can return to campus. To determine your designated arrival/departure location, please contact the Front Office at (913) 789-9443.

24. Will students be moving from classroom to classroom throughout the day?

Based on the most restrictive expectations for schools, student movement within the building will be lessened to provide minimized exposure between students in other classes. Specials (Art, music, Makerspace, Social Skills and Executive Function classes) will be done within the classroom. Physical Education will take place either outside or in the gymnasium.

25. What about shared areas like the bathroom and drinking fountains? Will all students be using the same facilities?

Students will use the facilities on their designated level of the building. There will be staggered use of the restrooms and the drinking fountains will be used for only filling water bottles, utilizing the no-touch function of the fountains.

26. Will all the students still eat lunch together? Will there be microwaves and refrigeration available?

Lunch will be eaten in the classroom with the same group of peers and teachers. No shared refrigeration will be available. Lunches should be packed with ice or in an insulated bag. Food may not be shared. *No microwaves will be available.*

27. I will need to pick up my student early one day for an appointment. How do I sign him/her out?

If your child needs to be picked up early, please let your classroom teacher know as well as the front office. When you arrive at Horizon Academy for pick up, call the school office at (913) 789-9443 and a staff member will sign your child out and walk your child to your car.

28. Will there still be parent-teacher conferences, as well as other traditional events like Grandparents Day and Graduation?

All parent-student-teacher conferences will be done remotely via Zoom. Decisions have yet to be made about traditional school events (Welcome Coffee, Back-To-School Night, Muffins with Moms, Donuts with Dads, Grandparents Day, Graduation, and so forth): they may be cancelled, held online, or conducted in person with an altered format.

Distance Learning

29. Will Horizon Academy have remote learning in place as an alternative should schools be required to close for a period of time due to the pandemic?

In the event that local, state, or federal government requires the closure of schools, or if the administration deems that either the level or the nature of contagion weighs too strongly against the measures we are taking to mitigate risk, the community will be notified as soon as possible that the campus will close and Distance Learning will begin.

30. What is Horizon Academy's Distance Learning Program?

Distance Learning is an enhanced version of the Spring 2020 program reflecting feedback from students, parents, and teachers as well as evolving best practices in national independent schools, and it will allow teachers to provide instruction to students using synchronous connection throughout the school day as well as asynchronous methods. Your student will maintain their class schedule and be engaged with the teachers, classmates, small groups, and specialists throughout the school day via Zoom.

31. A member of our household was either exposed to COVID-19, or has been diagnosed with it. While we are quarantined, can my child still attend classes at Horizon Academy?

Yes, if your family is quarantined due to COVID-19, your student would still attend classes via Distance Learning. There will be 360-degree cameras utilized in the physical classroom, allowing your student to see and engage with the teachers and classmates throughout the day. Your student will continue to receive all services as indicated in their learning plan via Zoom.