



September 3, 2021

Dear HPS Parents, Staff, and Families,

As mentioned in the letter posted on September 2, this has been a constantly changing situation with additional guidance and recommendations being made on a frequent basis. I appreciate the flexibility and understanding during these especially challenging times from our parents, students, families, and staff.

The district will continue to follow the same protocols and procedures outlined during the 2020-2021 school year for an individual who tests positive for COVID-19. Additional guidance for these situations will be provided directly from the Hill County Health Department.

Parents/Guardians will be notified if your child is considered a “close contact” during the time of possible exposure to COVID-19. A close contact is defined as someone who has been within 6 feet for longer than 15 minutes during a 24-hour period to someone who tests positive for COVID-19.

Parents will have options regarding the safe return to school for those individuals who are considered close contacts.

Option 1:

- Students may take advantage of off-site learning for a period of 10 days without penalty to their attendance record. Students will be allowed to continue working with their teacher through Google classroom or other learning platform established by the school, or complete work at home via packets, assignments, or other platforms.
- Off-site instruction for students is available under state law and [Havre Public School District Policy 1906](#) to help prevent learning loss while protecting others in the school building from possible exposure.
- Students will receive full credit for all work completed. Failure to engage in learning activities may affect a student’s grade.
- Students will not be able to participate in student activities during the off-site learning assignment as a precaution to prevent exposure and transmission.
- Students who are excluded from school due to COVID-19 related issues will be afforded the opportunity, as soon as feasible when they are well enough to participate in classwork, to make up any missed classwork without penalty in order to reduce mental or physical anxieties about missed academic opportunities.

Option 2:

- Parents/Guardians who are contacted and informed that their child has been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19, if not presenting any symptoms, may attend school and participate in all extra-curricular activities and events.
- A student developing symptoms at school will result in protocols outlined in [HPS Policy 3417](#).

Additional Information:

- Students with any illness should be fever free for 24 hours in addition to improving symptoms prior to returning to school. In most cases, COVID-19 is clinically indistinguishable from other common respiratory illnesses. COVID-19 testing may be required to determine if a student is virus free. In this case, the student and other family members should remain home until testing results are known.
- We have BINAX Now rapid testing available to interested students and staff. Contact the school district nurse, Jeri Zorn (390-2210) about availability of testing at the Robins Administrative Building or you can schedule a test with your primary provider.
- It is imperative that if students are not feeling well and are presenting symptoms, that they not attend school. Please communicate with the building secretary or building Principal if your child is sick and will not be attending school.

Additional questions about the transition to off-site learning, if necessary, can be directed to:

- Your child's building Principal
- Special Services Director, Karla Geda: gedak@blueponyk12.com
- Assistant Superintendent, Brad Moore: mooreb@blueponyk12.com
- Superintendent, Craig Mueller: muellerc@blueponyk12.com

Sincerely,

Craig Mueller

Craig Mueller
Superintendent
Havre Public Schools
(406) 395-8550