

HUNTINGDON AREA HIGH SCHOOL

2400 Cassady Avenue, Suite 1 Huntingdon, PA 16652

Phone: (814)643-1080 Fax: (814)643-3800 Website: <http://huntsd.org>

Mr. Travis R. Lee,
Secondary Principal

Mr. Brent A. Stoltzfus,
Assistant Principal

"ALL LEARNERS, ALL FUTURES"

To: Learners, Parents, and Guardians
From: Mr. Travis Lee, High School Principal
Re: HAHS School Reopening Update
Date: August 5, 2020

Greetings Learners, Parents, and Guardians,

I hope that you and your families are well, and have been able to enjoy your summer as we've moved through a very unpredictable time for education, and for society in general. As we are nearing the start of the 2020-2021 school year, this memorandum provides an update with school reopening procedures. The school district has a COVID-19 website, found at [HASD COVID-19](#) and posted to the district webpage, which provides both district and building-level information. Please be sure to check out the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document as part of the website. Most of the HAHS building-specific information is also shared in the **HAHS Reopening Health and Safety Information** section at the end of this memo.

Our first day of school is Thursday, August 27, 2020. We are returning at 100% capacity, with all learners attending school in-person every school day. Therefore, it is especially important that you review the information below with your learner so that they understand and will abide by the expectations to help ensure the health and safety of all members of our school community to the greatest extent possible. **If you have any concerns, especially with face covering requirements for school attendance, please contact the school as soon as possible. It is important that learners come prepared to follow all new expectations during the first day of school.** There will be an emphasis on educating and reviewing this information with them to start the year.

It is imperative that we collaboratively work together and be positive examples for our children so that we can provide the best educational opportunities for them. We must anticipate that this school year may be unpredictable, and that we may need to make adjustments to the schedule and in-person and remote learning as the circumstances of the pandemic change. We will be able to best support our learners by keeping lines of communication open.

Please review both the General Messages and the HAHS Reopening Health and Safety sections below. The information is lengthy, but we want to keep you informed, so I appreciate your understanding. If you have any questions, please contact the school office. There will be an additional update with beginning of the year reminders after schedules are released and prior to the start of school.

Sincerely,

Travis R. Lee,
HAHS Principal

General Messages

HAHS Online Learning Options

HAHS has a full virtual learning option, known as the Bearcat Institute for Learning and Development, or BILD. This can be a great option for learners and families concerned about attending school in-person during the COVID-19 pandemic. A major benefit of HAHS's program is that most courses are taught by HAHS teachers, hybrid schedules can be developed, and in-person support can be provided if necessary.

Families that previously completed the district's online interest survey will be contacted this week in order to answer any additional questions and to enroll in the program. If you did not previously express interest but would like to do so now, please visit the [HASD COVID-19](#) website for additional information about BILD and complete the [HASD Online Learning Interest Survey](#). We hope to have all learners intending to enroll in BILD confirmed by Friday, August 14.

Learner Schedules for 20-21

Learner schedules for the 20-21 school year will be released on Tuesday, August 18 via Skyward. Learners will be able to login to their skyward accounts to view their daily schedules. A notification will be sent when schedules are available.

HAHS HVAC Project

When learners return to school, they will encounter a building with a completely renovated heating and ventilation system. Construction crews have been busy all summer, and we look forward to having a more comfortable learning environment.

Freshmen and New Learner Orientation

An additional message about Freshmen and New Learner Orientation will be sent later this week. Multiple orientation sessions will be held the **afternoon of Tuesday, August 18** and during the **evening of Wednesday, August 19**. Each 45-minute session will be limited to 25 individuals.

iPad Return Information

Thank you for your diligence in returning school materials and iPads at the end of the school year. Learners that previously did not return iPads were contacted during the summer. If these have yet to be returned, it is important that they are returned and available for the start of the year. Learners and families are responsible for missing iPads, and use of iPads could be delayed at the start of the year for these individuals.

HAHS Reopening Health and Safety Information

The information below provides an overview of the COVID-19 Preventative Measures and Daily Operating Procedures for HAHS. Families and learners can do their part to help in keeping our school community safe by reviewing this information and paying close attention to the following key items:

- Face covering requirements
- Handwashing and distancing expectations
- Home self- screening process

We appreciate your cooperation!

COVID-19 Preventative Measures

Face Coverings

As per the Pennsylvania Department of Health face covering order, all learners are to wear face coverings while on the bus and in school if the social distancing guidelines of 6 feet are not met.

- All learners must wear a face covering (cloth mask or face shield) that covers their nose and mouth inside the school and while outside when physical distancing is not feasible.
- Children two years and older are required to wear a face covering unless they have a medical or mental health condition or disability, documented in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of IDEA, that precludes the wearing of a face covering in school. Accommodations for such learners should be made in partnership with the learner's health care provider, school nurse, and IEP/504 team.

Schools may allow students to remove their face coverings when students are:

1. Eating or drinking when spaced at least 6 feet apart;
2. Seated at desks or assigned work spaces at least 6 feet apart; or
3. Engaged in an activity at least 6 feet apart (e.g. face covering breaks, recess, etc.)

If learners cannot wear face coverings in schools for medical reasons, the Huntingdon Area School District may require parents/guardians to provide pertinent medical information in order to decide whether a 504 plan should be developed or modified for a child (or an existing IEP modified) to address whether a child should be excused from wear a face covering in school.

Consequences

If a learner does not have a valid medical excuse for the wear face covering requirement, and continued noncompliance with this requirement occurs, the Huntingdon Area School District may elect to transfer the learner to a virtual learning environment in order to protect the health and safety of staff and learners in school.

1st Offense - Sent to office/warning/phone call home. Sent back to class if the learner complies with the request.

2nd Offense - Learner separated from others and parent/guardian will be called to pick up the learner. 1 full day of remote learning.

3rd Offense - Learner separated from others and parent/guardian will be called to pick up the learner. 3 full days of remote learning.

Subsequent Offenses - Huntingdon Area School District may elect to transfer the learner to a virtual learning environment in order to protect the health and safety of staff and learners in school.

If a learner does not have a valid medical excuse for the wear face covering requirement, and continued noncompliance with this requirement occurs, the Huntingdon Area School District may elect to transfer the learner to a virtual learning environment in order to protect the health and safety of staff and learners in school.

Social/Physical Distancing Measures

Social distancing, also called "physical distancing," means keeping a safe space between yourself and other people who are not from your household. Social Distancing is fundamental to lowering the risk of spread of COVID-19, as the primary mode of transmission is through respiratory droplets by persons in close proximity.

The Huntingdon Area High School will implement protocols for distancing learner desks/seating and other social distancing practices that allows at least 6 feet of separation among learners and staff throughout the day to the maximum extent feasible.

Handwashing

The Huntingdon Area School District understands it is important to stay healthy by washing your hands often, especially during these key times when you are likely to get and spread germs:

- Before eating food
- After using the toilet
- Before touching your eyes, nose, or mouth because that's how germs enter our bodies.
- After blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing
- After you have been in a public place and touched an item or surface that may be frequently touched by other people, such as door handles, tables, or electronic screens, etc.

Washing your hands is easy, and it's one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs. Clean hands can stop germs from spreading from one person to another.

The school will encourage learners to follow these five steps every time.

1. Wet your hands with clean, running water (warm or cold), turn off the tap, and apply soap.

2. Lather your hands by rubbing them together with the soap. Lather the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your nails.
3. Scrub your hands for at least 20 seconds. Need a timer? Hum the “Happy Birthday” song from beginning to end twice.
4. Rinse your hands well under clean, running water.
5. Dry your hands using a clean towel or air dry them.

Washing hands with soap and water is the best way to get rid of germs in most situations. If soap and water are not readily available, Sanitizers will also be available around the school and in classrooms for learners to use.

How to use hand sanitizer

- Apply the gel product to the palm of one hand (read the label to learn the correct amount).
- Rub your hands together.
- Rub the gel over all the surfaces of your hands and fingers until your hands are dry. This should take around 20 seconds.

For more information on handwashing, visit CDC’s [Handwashing website](https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/index.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/index.html>) or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.

[Handwashing Video](#)

At Home Parent and Learner Self-Screening

The Huntingdon Area School District highly encourages parents and learners to do a wellness and temperature assessment each morning prior to coming to school.

Is your child experiencing any of the following?:

Group A - 1 or more symptoms	Group B - 2 or more symptoms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Fever (100.4 or higher) ● Cough ● Shortness of breath ● Difficulty breathing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sore throat ● Runny nose/congestion ● Chills ● New lack of smell or taste ● Muscle pain ● Nausea or vomiting ● Headache ● Diarrhea

Stay home if, you or the student:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Have one or more symptoms in Group A OR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Have two or more symptoms in Group B OR
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Are taking fever reducing medication

Portal (Bus to School) to Portal (School to Home) Guidelines & Procedures

Symptoms of Illness or Covid-19 Symptoms on the Bus

If any learner is displaying any symptoms of illness on the bus, the following guidelines will be followed:

1. Learners will be quarantined on the bus to the maximum extent possible. The learner will minimally be seated alone.
2. Learners will maintain face coverings while on the bus.
3. Bus driver will communicate to the school the name of the learner.
4. Learner will immediately report to the health room. We will have a designated Covid-19 health room for quarantine.
5. Parents will be contacted for learners to be immediately picked up at school.

Temperature Check

When the learners arrive at school, learners will have their temperature checked as they enter the HS lobby.

Learners will be expected to stand in line 6 ft. apart while waiting for an adult to check their temperature.

- Normal Temperature reading - Learner will proceed to homeroom.
- High Temperature reading - Learner will report to the designated Covid-19 health room (Student Activities Room) for further screening by the nurse.

Symptoms of Illness or Covid-19 Symptoms at School

If any learner is displaying any symptoms of illness, the following guidelines will be followed:

1. Learners will immediately report to the health room. We will have a designated Covid-19 health room for quarantine.
2. Learners will maintain face coverings while in quarantine.
3. Nurse will assess and evaluate the learner's symptoms. Depending on the assessment, the nurse may do the following:
 1. Contact parents for the learner to be immediately picked up at school.
 2. Treat the learner and send them back to class.

Symptoms of Illness or Covid-19 Symptoms Prior to Dismissal

All learners' health and safety are a priority. If learners are displaying symptoms of illness as determined by the school nurse/LPN prior to dismissal, the learner will not be permitted to ride the bus home. Parents will be contacted for learners to be immediately picked up at school.

Returning to School After Displaying Symptoms of Illness or Covid-19 Symptoms

In accordance with the HAHS Health and Safety policy and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) learners with fever or symptoms that may be associated with COVID-19 and no known direct exposure to a person with COVID-19 **may return to school when they are asymptomatic and have been fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine or have confirmation of an alternative diagnosis from a health care provider that explains the COVID-19 like symptom(s).**

Returning to School After Testing Positive for Covid-19

If the learner tests positive for COVID-19 they may return to school when:

1. At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared and
2. At least 3 days (72 hours) have passed since recovery defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications and
3. Improvement in respiratory symptoms(e.g., cough, shortness of breath); and
4. Medical permission to return to school from their physician.

Daily Operating Procedures

A.M. Arrival to School

- **Buses** - Middle School learners will be dropped off at the Middle School starting around 7:30 am. The buses will then proceed to the High School to drop off HS learners.
- **Student Drivers** - Plan to arrive at the school and enter via the main entrance between 7:30 to 7:45 am. Park and proceed to the building. Do not wait in your vehicle, and avoid congregating and entering the school in one wave.
- **Parent Drop-Off of Learners** - Any learner being transported by their parents to school should be dropped off within the bus loop of the high school. Drop off should occur between 7:45 to 7:50 am.

Please understand that there will be an increase of traffic and drop off may take longer than expected. Please abide by bus laws and do not pass the buses while they are unloading learners.

Breakfast

Learners will still be able to purchase breakfast in the morning. Breakfast will be a grab & go format. Learners will eat breakfast in their homeroom.

Homeroom

Learners will report directly to their homeroom upon having their temperatures checked and entering the building. The homeroom time is extended to accommodate for additional arrival time.

Lockers

Lockers will not be provided to our learners.

- We are unable to provide proper physical distancing with locker assignments.
- We also know that lockers are areas where learners congregate at different times during the day.

Backpacks

Learners are permitted to carry backpacks from class to class. Learners will need to keep all belongings, including sweatshirts, coats, etc., with them throughout the day.

Water and Hydration

- **Water Fountains**
 - All water fountains will be shut off. Learners should utilize the water bottle filling stations.
- **Water Bottles**
 - It is highly recommended that learners have their own water bottle to carry during school time.
Please make sure you place your first and last name on your water bottle.

Hallways and Class Transitions

- Masks are mandatory when traveling in the hallway.
- Learners are to walk on the right side of the hallway. There will be some hallways where a unidirectional flow will be instituted to mitigate cross traffic. These hallway patterns will be reviewed with learners.
- Stairwells will be listed as “up” or “down” for traffic flow. There will be two up and two down stairwells.
- Learners are to maintain 6 ft. social distancing from their classmates when traveling in the hallways.

Cafeteria & Lunch

- We will utilize the cafeteria, auditorium stage, auditorium library, and additional areas for lunch to provide a safe environment for our learners to eat lunch.
- Learners will be assigned seating areas, by classroom, during lunch
- Lunch times may be staggered by class to aid in cleaning between lunches.
- Learners will be provided laminated with their Student ID and barcode to use for entering their lunch account information to avoid manual keypad entry. Student IDs can also be utilized for this purpose.

Classroom Set-Up

- Desks will be organized in rows and facing the same direction
- Desks will be distanced to the extent possible
- Assigned seating will be utilized to maximize spacing, based upon the number of learners in each class
- Classes of 15-18 learners can maintain 6 feet distancing. Classes of 22-25 learners can maintain 3 feet distancing.
- Note that learners must wear face coverings whenever 6 feet of distancing cannot be met

Daily Cleaning Schedule

- Additional custodial staff will be available during the school day to aid in cleaning high touch areas, such as railings, door knobs, office areas, etc.
- Restrooms will be cleaned during the day on a rotating basis, with each restroom cleaned at least twice daily during school hours
- Items that must be shared within classes, such as computer labs, calculators, lab equipment, etc, will be cleaned prior to the next class's use. This process will become part of the classroom routine.

PM Dismissal

Learners will not be permitted to leave the building all at once. Learners will be dismissed from the building in three waves, based upon their Pd. 7 class. Dismissal will take place between 2:42 - 2:51 PM. Learners will be able to return their iPads to their homeroom carts upon dismissal, and then proceed to their buses at the Middle School or to their vehicles.

Daily Bell Schedule

The daily schedule will be modified, and different from the 2019-2020 school year, to accommodate for additional transition time during the beginning and the end of the school day, and during lunches. Instead of 50 minute classes, classes will be 47 or 42 minutes in length. The final schedule will be posted and shared when completed.

Please note that additional changes to the daily schedule throughout the year may be necessary.

