

Hanover School District Keeping School Open Plan

The health and safety of our students, staff, and families is our top priority. The 2021–22 Hanover “Keeping Schools Open Plan” was developed with guidance from El Paso County Public Health (EPCPH), the Colorado Department of Education, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, the Governor’s office, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Department of Education, and with input from families and staff members of the Hanover School District, and our community.

With the guidance and support from the individuals and groups listed above, we were able to successfully open schools to in-person learning during the 2020–21 school year. The leadership and hard work displayed by our Hanover staff, students, and families enabled us to open, and remain open, to in-person learning last year. Our main goal last year was to reopen schools to in-person learning in a safe way. This year, our main goals are to keep our schools open to in-person learning, continue to provide a safe learning environment for students and staff, and return to as much of a “normal” school year as possible.

Based on the above-mentioned guidance and feedback, Hanover students in grades PreK-12 will continue with in-person learning four days a week with revised COVID-19 protocols in place. We will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation in our county on a regular basis and make changes where needed. Hanover leadership is in constant communication with EPCPH, and we will make adjustments to the “Keeping Schools Open Plan,” if needed. Depending on various factors surrounding COVID-19 in our community, this could mean reducing protocols/procedures or reintroducing protocols/procedures that were suspended.

We know that the pandemic is not over, especially in El Paso County. Our COVID-19 cases have risen in our county over the late spring and summer months, and the Delta Variant is very present in our community. That, coupled with lower vaccination rates in our county, require us to remain vigilant in our attempts to keep COVID-19 out of our schools and to prevent it from spreading when it is present.

While the COVID-19 vaccine is completely voluntary for staff and students, data shows that fully vaccinated individuals are at a much lower risk of getting COVID-19, and the low number of vaccinated individuals who do contract COVID-19 usually have very mild symptoms. We are highly encouraging eligible staff and students to take advantage of receiving this free, safe vaccine. You can visit the [EPCPH vaccine site](#) to sign up for a vaccine today. The site also provides information on where the mobile vaccine clinics will be located. Not only does the vaccine help protect you and those around you, it can also keep you from potentially being quarantined throughout the school year.

2021–22 Hanover School District “Keeping Schools Open Plan”
Protocols/Procedures

Face Coverings

- * Face coverings will not be required for any Hanover student or staff member, except on buses.
- * This includes all Hanover facilities.
- * Federal law still mandates face coverings on ALL public transportation, including school buses, vaccinated or not. Bus windows will remain open when conditions allow, to increase fresh air flow.
- * Face coverings are still highly recommended for students and staff who are not fully vaccinated.

Quarantining (household contact, non-symptomatic)

- * We will not be quarantining fully vaccinated, non-symptomatic students and staff.
- * If a student or staff member tests positive for COVID-19, the unvaccinated members of their household will be quarantined.

Quarantining (school)

* A student or staff member will be quarantined if they are NOT vaccinated but is found to be in close contact with a student or staff member who is determined to have tested positive for the COVID-19 or strain of the virus. Options for quarantine are: a) quarantine for 10 days and return to school with no symptoms for the next 4 days OR b) quarantine for 14 days and no symptoms 24 hours prior to returning to school on day 15.

Isolation/Potential Isolation (symptomatic)

* Students or staff members who test positive for COVID-19 will be asked by EPCPH to isolate for 10 days.

* In the event of receiving a subsequent negative test result after receiving a positive test result, students or staff will still be asked to isolate out of an abundance of caution. Negative results do not negate a positive test.

* Regardless of vaccination status, students or staff who show symptoms commonly associated with COVID-19 will be sent home for 10 days, but can return earlier with a resolution of symptoms and a negative COVID-19 test.

Disinfection

* Classroom teachers will continue to have access to district-approved disinfectant supplies but will not be required to disinfect between classes.

* Students and staff will continue to have access to hand sanitizer.

* Regular, daily disinfection of schools and other district facilities by custodial staff will continue.

* In the event of a COVID-19-positive individual entering a classroom or district facility, disinfecting machines will be used to ensure the space is safe for use.

Hand Hygiene

We will continue to encourage proper and frequent hand washing and disinfection throughout the school day.

Visitors

- * Visitors will continue to be allowed in district facilities.
- * Visitors who are not fully vaccinated are encouraged to wear a face covering while inside of district facilities.

Events

- * CHSAA sponsored events will continue to follow CHSAA safety guidelines.
- * All non-CHSAA sponsored events will follow Hanover School District and ECPH event guidelines.

Nutrition

- * Cafeteria will be returning to normal status pending guidance from the state agency.

Additional Details of the 2021–22 Hanover School District “Keeping Schools Open Plan”

Symptomatic students, staff, and families should not enter any Hanover School District school or facility.

While the Daily Symptom Tracker will not return this school year, students, staff, and families are still encouraged to monitor their symptoms daily.

Whenever physical distancing is possible, it is still encouraged...especially if you are not fully vaccinated.

Cohorting at the elementary level will still be encouraged whenever possible.

Contact tracing will still occur throughout the district, and families of students who were in a classroom with an individual who was COVID-19-positive will be notified.

COVID attendance codes will still be entered daily as this data is valuable for us to be able to monitor COVID-19 levels throughout the district.

The district-paid COVID-19 leave is not available for the 2021–22 school year. Staff members who are isolated or quarantined due to COVID-19 will need to use their accrued leave.

Remember, while the COVID-19 vaccine isn't required for students or staff, FULLY VACCINATED STUDENTS AND STAFF WILL NOT HAVE TO QUARANTINE IF SOMEONE IN THEIR HOUSEHOLD TESTS POSITIVE.

Online Learning Option

We highly encourage families to enroll their students in a Hanover School District school for in-person learning as we know this is the most effective model for delivery of instruction for the majority of our students. But, we realize that in-person learning might not be the best option for your child. We remind parents and families that we offer enrollment in the Hanover Online Academy.

I have received a copy of the 2021/2022 "Keeping School Open Plan"

Signature

Date

Print Name