

Chattanooga Girls Leadership Academy and Montessori Elementary at Highland Park 2021-22 School Opening Guidelines

Please note these plans are subject to change based on local COVID-19 case counts and/or executive orders issued at the local or state level.

We are off to a great 2021-2022 school year and excited to have the opportunity to begin our teaching and learning fully in-person. Although we anticipated returning to the classroom in normal fashion, unfortunately, we are experiencing yet another surge in our Covid-19 cases. Therefore, we are providing guidance as we enter our classrooms this fall semester and the school year.

To mitigate the effects of Covid-19 we will provide a prevention plan to help keep our students safe in their learning environment and to keep our schools fully open during this school year. As you may be aware, state law has eliminated the option to move to remote instruction as an alternative learning model.

To reduce the spread of COVID-19, the CDC and Tennessee Department of Health and Hamilton County Health Department recommends that students:

1. Stay at home when sick or symptomatic.
2. Wear face coverings in public settings when around people, especially when other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
3. Reinforce handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use of hand sanitizer when soap and water are not readily available.

Our goal this year is to move our students to higher levels academically, keep our students safely in school and assure that we keep our schools open during this 2021-22 school year. Please understand these are guidelines to assist students with being able to stay in school and reduce classroom and school closures and to mitigate the need for quarantine situations.

Face Covering and Mask Recommendation

As we all know covid-19 cases are increasing and to avoid school closures and negatively affect teaching and learning we will use the following guidelines:

- All students will be asked to mask while inside the buildings. However, parents may present their principal with a doctor or parental note on Monday, August 16th, if it is necessary for their child not to mask.
- **All visitors, faculty and staff will be required to mask while inside buildings.** We want to assure we are doing all we can to keep our children, school personnel and families safe.
- Beginning Monday, August 16th, Face coverings are required for all student riders and staff bus drivers. There is a requirement, as families can choose not to bus transportation if they do not want their child to wear a mask or face covering while traveling to or from school.

- Students will be given seat assignments on the bus.

As we return to school our goal is for students to stay in school and to minimize specific school closures and quarantine situations for students. The CDC and Tennessee Department of Education recommends that face coverings should be worn by staff and students and are most essential in times when social distancing cannot occur. This is supported by the Hamilton County Health Department and medical professionals.

Prevention Measures

- Students and staff are to stay home if sick or symptomatic.
- School Covid-19 Tracking Team is in place
- Social distancing to the extent that distancing is possible, and face coverings required for staff and recommended for students.
 - Parents and/or guardians can present principal with parental or doctor's note should it be necessary for their child not to mask.
- Building Entry and Exit protocols will be implemented.
- Daily cleaning and disinfecting will be in place.
- Visitors may be limited and all will be required to mask, Sign-in is required by all visitors.
- Gatherings will be limited; when gatherings take place, social distancing will be encouraged, and stagnant/lingering crowds will be discouraged.
- Athletic and extracurricular events will be conducted in accordance with guidance from the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS). Guidance will be adjusted, as necessary.

Classroom and School Areas

- Implement social distancing strategies for the unique space and needs of the school.
- Students will be given a specific assigned seat in the classroom when possible.
- Students will be spaced in cafeteria settings.
- Avoid sharing supplies unless necessary, limit the use of supplies and equipment by one group of students at a time and disinfect frequently.
- Avoid mixing students in common areas and playgrounds when feasible. Gathering places reconfigured for social distancing.
- Rearrange student desks to maximize the space between students.
- Classroom windows should be open when possible and conditions allow.
- Lockers may be used

Disinfecting Areas

- Water fountains will not be used.
- Multiple opportunities planned throughout the day for handwashing and use of hand sanitizer.
- Hand sanitizer and other disinfecting supplies provided for classroom use.
- Classrooms and school areas will be disinfected with hydrostatic-misters as needed, and at least once per week.

- Disinfect restrooms at least once per day.
- Classroom doors should be kept open as much as possible to reduce touching of doorknobs.
- Supplies (soap, paper towels, etc.) checked frequently throughout the day.

COVID-19 Testing

Voluntary COVID-19 testing is available for all students and staff in the school clinic by the physician. These tests can be administered for symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals, and for purposes of “testing out” of quarantine on or after the 5th day for unvaccinated individuals. Both vaccinated and unvaccinated persons can receive an on-demand COVID-19 test. Fully vaccinated students and staff are NOT required to quarantine and therefore do not need to “test out” of quarantine.

If a vaccinated student or staff member is exposed to a confirmed positive case of COVID-19, they will not be required to quarantine UNLESS they develop symptoms; these individuals can remain in school unless they develop symptoms, at which time they will be asked to test for COVID-19 or remain home until symptoms resolve.

Contact Tracing

CGLA and MEHP continue contact tracing. Upon confirmation of a positive case of COVID-19, Covid-19 tracking team will work with school personnel to determine close contacts. Close contacts are individuals with or without a mask that have been within 6 feet of a positive COVID-19 case for 15 minutes or more. ***Individuals who have been fully vaccinated and do not have symptoms do not have to quarantine.*** Parents/guardians of close contacts will be notified and provided follow up instructions. The principal will gather information and notifying families.

- Quarantine requires 10 days or staff and students will have the alternate option to “test out” of quarantine and return to school or work on Day 8 if they produce evidence of a negative test result from a test administered on or after Day 5 of quarantine. For instance, it is appropriate for a student or staff member to report to school on Day 8, go immediately to the school clinic to report to physician, and receive a rapid COVID test; if the result of the test is negative, the student or staff member can return to work or school immediately.

Quarantined Students

If students are unable to attend school due to quarantine, CGLA and MEHP will provide students with work. Students must demonstrate attendance through asynchronous work activities. Students will be able to submit assignments for grading/attendance during quarantine. There will not be remote instruction required during the quarantine. ***Teachers will make the decision as to the type of instruction provided.***

- If all expectations for attendance and receiving credit have been met, the State Board of Education [State Rule 0520-01-13-.01\(1\)\(d\)](#) does allow for the school to mark the student as present for remote learning, ***only in the case of COVID related illness or quarantine.*** The school will indicate this through marking the student’s attendance in PowerSchool as “CV” for the day.

Information for Students and Families

- Stay home if you are not feeling well. Call your school to let them know you won't be attending school on-campus, and tell them if you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19.
- Talk to your medical provider or our school physician to determine when to return to school.
- If you get tested for COVID-19, notify your school immediately. Then follow-up when you get the results. Bring your test results to school.

If you were tested for Covid-19

- Stay home. Notify your school during school hours. Stay home until you receive results. Bring results to school.
- Talk to your medical provider or our school physician to determine when to return to school. You will be provided a letter by your principal.
- Note: If you are quarantined because you are considered a "close contact," you can "test out" of quarantine and return to school on Day 8 with evidence of a negative test result administered on Day 5 or later.

If you test positive for Covid-19

- Stay home. Notify school *immediately*.
 - During school hours, call the schools' main phone number.
 - After school hours, email your principal. Include your contact information, including a call-back phone number. You will be provided a letter by your principal.
- You will not be allowed to return to school until you have been cleared by the Health Department and or school physician. Bring your results to school.
- If you feel well enough, you may participate in remote learning until you are cleared to return. Contact your principal for more information.

If you test negative for Covid-19

- Notify your school during school hours and be prepared to show proof of your negative test result by bring the results to school.
- Talk to your medical provider or our school physician to determine when to return to school. You will be sent a letter by the school principal.
- Note: If you are quarantined because you are considered a "close contact," you can "test out" of quarantine and return to school on Day 8 with evidence of a negative test result administered on Day 5 or later.

If you were a close contact of someone who tested positive for Covid-19

- Stay home. Notify your school during school hours, if they are not already aware of the exposure. Our contact tracing team will contact you.
- If you feel well enough, you may participate in remote learning until you are cleared to return. Contact your school for more information.

- If you begin to feel ill, speak with a medical professional.
- If you choose to get tested, notify your school during school hours. Bring your test results
- Note: If you are quarantined because you are considered a “close contact,” you can “test out” of quarantine and return to school on Day 8 with evidence of a negative test result administered on Day 5 or later.

We will also remind you of our CGLA and MEHP mitigation strategies:

Consistently Wash Your Hands

Give Each other 6 feet of Space

Leave on your mask

Always stay home if you are sick

We look forward to seeing our students on Monday morning following our guidelines for safety

Remember we are two schools, one vision and we are better together!