



Community Academy of Philadelphia
a Pennsylvania Charter School

Elementary/High SCHOOL

1100 East Erie Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19124

Phone 215.533.6700
F 215.533.6722

www.communityacademy.org

Last Edited 8-4-2020

Team: Natalie Morales and Elizabeth Otero

Here at Community Academy of Philadelphia your safety and wellness are one of our top priority. Here are some health office reminders and new information regarding COVID-19.

COVID-19

Reducing the risk of the spread of COVID-19 is a priority at CAP. We have all been working throughout the summer to make school a safe and healthy environment for you and our students.

Mask Guidelines:

In accordance with the CDC guidelines and the Department of Public Health all CAP employees must wear a face mask that covers the mouth and nose at all times while in the school building. We ask that if you see a student wearing their mask incorrectly to please remind students of the proper way to wear the mask. As a reminder face masks do not replace the need to maintain social distancing, frequent hand washing and cleaning and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces.

If a student has a medical exemption and is unable to wear a mask, teachers will receive an email, exemption will be noted in PowerSchool and the student will receive a health office pass.

Students with the following conditions, as well as others, are eligible to use a face shield in place of a mask. This list is not exhaustive. Additional requests will be considered on an individual basis. Social distancing is important to maintain to protect these students and others.

- Tracheostomies
- Neuromuscular and other conditions that limit the ability to self-remove a mask
- Autism
- Hearing Impairment
- Chronological young age (2 years and younger)
- Developmental young age
- Cognitive impairment
- Facial deformities that make mask wearing difficult

Hand hygiene should be performed before and after applying and removing a mask. A mask is defined as a covering of the nose and mouth, that is secured with straps that tie or loop over the ears or around the back of the head.

Clothing and household items (like scarfs, t-shirts, sweatshirts, or towels) are not themselves acceptable face coverings for use. However, acceptable masks may be factory-made, sewn by hand or machine, or created by using materials cut or constructed from household or clothing items. The five types of face coverings approved for in school are disposable surgical mask, school purchased mask/cloth mask, neck gaiters, face shields (grades K-4), and N95 Respirator.

Please refrain from sending students to the health office if they refuse to wear a mask. This is a discipline issue.

When to Send a student to the Health Office:

If a student is suspected of having COVID-19 like symptoms (see below), please send the student independently to the health office. No student should be accompanied by another student to avoid potential transmission.

Students will be sent home if they are experiencing *any* of the following:

- Fever of 100.4 or Above
- Frequent dry cough (non-related to an underlying medical condition)
- Shortness of Breath

Students will be sent home if they are experiencing *two or more* of the following symptoms:

- Sore throat
- Headache
- Chills
- Generally feeling unwell, fatigue, and/or muscle aches
- New loss of taste or smell
- New foot sores
- Active vomiting or diarrhea
- Rash of unknown origin

Emergency calls

Student may independently ambulate to office for variety of individualized needs, so long as **none** of the following symptoms are present (in other words a code 400 is needed for below):

- Confusion/ “doesn’t seem to be themself”/disorientation
- Decreased level of consciousness
- Shortness of Breath/Respiratory Distress
- Dizziness/Lightheadedness
- Spinal Cord Injury/Head Injury complaining of neck pain - DO NOT MOVE POSITION
- Vision impairment
- Seizing

When not to send a student to the health office

In order to prevent potential exposure to infectious diseases, promote isolation, and decrease office congestion please note that students do **NOT** need to present to Health Office with the following common situations:

- Paper cuts, small abrasions, picked scabs - have them wash hands and apply band aid if needed.
- Minor headaches and/or fatigue - allow them to get snack/drink water first. Better after 20 minutes?
- Mild stomach ache and/or nausea - allow to use the restroom, drink water, and have snack first. Better after 20 minutes?
- Localized bug bite - if no allergy history and not spread over large area of skin, apply cool paper towel to area to help prevent scratching.
- Anxiety/Stress/Psychosocial Issues - if not affecting breathing or medical health try snack, redirection, or please refer to counseling or other applicable services for collaboration.

STUDENTS WITH ASTHMA

Symptoms of asthma and COVID-19 may overlap, including cough and shortness of breath. Therefore, students experiencing acute asthma attacks are required to stay home unless approval by a healthcare provider has been provided to the health office. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, students who have an exacerbation (flare up) of asthma should remain home until their asthma symptoms are under control. School nurses are unable to provide nebulizer treatments in school due to the aerosol and lack of ventilation. Students who require their rescue inhaler more than once per week will need to seek medical attention.

WHEN TO RETURN TO SCHOOL

- If COVID-19 is suspected we are requesting that parents consider having the student get tested for COVID-19 and/or provide a doctor's note for other treatment specific guidelines. If you choose not to test, students must stay home for the 10-day minimum and return to school when symptom free for three days.
- When fever free for 72 hours without fever reducing medication. If not diagnosed COVID positive or presumed positive.
- When active vomiting or diarrhea-72 hours since last episode. If not diagnosed COVID positive or presumed positive.
- If student has seen a medical provider and is symptom free, he/she may return to school with a note from the medical provider.

Students who become ill during the school day

Parents/Emergency Contact will be called to pick up any student who has the above referenced symptoms. A letter with information regarding COVID-19 and CDC contact information will be provided to the student.

If a teacher or faculty member becomes ill during the school day

Please refrain from coming to the health office if you have any COVID-19 like symptoms. Please contact your direct supervisor for instruction.

Healthy Hygiene Practices

It's important to begin to teach our students healthy hygiene practices that have helped to decrease the spread of COVID-19. Every student and staff member will be required to:

- Wear a face mask that covers the mouth and nose at all times.
- Exercise hand hygiene (hand washing or sanitizing) upon arrival to school, before eating, before putting on and taking off masks, and when using the restroom.
- Use soap and water to wash all surfaces of their hands for at least 20 seconds.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol if hand washing is not feasible. Hand sanitizer will be provided in all buildings.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth.
- Practice good respiratory etiquette, including covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or elbow.

All students who need to be seen by the school nurse must have a health office pass and see Lisa Joel (high school) or Carmella Marchetti (Elementary School)

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at ext. 1136 or email at nmorales@communityacademy.org.