

# HUDSONWAY IMMERSION SCHOOL

## COVID-19 Addendum 2022-2023

### Part I: Guiding Principles

Onsite education provides a better academic and social emotional learning experience for our students. We will make every effort to ensure that we can provide this while ensuring safety for students and staff.

In developing our COVID protocols, the school seeks to:

- Take an adaptive approach to maintaining student health and wellness
- Remain committed to our school philosophy and program
- Minimize disruption to teaching and learning
- Encourage in-person learning whenever it is safe to do so
- Encourage an open dialogue with frequent, honest communication while respecting privacy
- Follow the guidelines and directives of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and local Department of Health to reduce risk of virus transmission
- Encourage shared responsibility for the safety of the collective community

### **Expectations and Responsibilities within the HWIS Community**

As a community, our success at maintaining a safe virus-free environment hinges on the actions of all parents, students, faculty and staff. We are asking parents to sign a **Code of Conduct** (see Appendix 3) which clarifies expectations of communication and responsibility.

**Note:** IF STUDENTS ARE BROUGHT INTO THE SCHOOL WITH COVID SYMPTOMS, THEY WILL BE SENT TO AN ISOLATION ROOM TO BE SENT BACK HOME.

## Part II: COVID-19 Protocol

As the pandemic continues to evolve, so too must our school protocol. It is recommended that the school institute “layered” safety strategies (e.g., vaccinations, boosters, masks, sanitation procedures and testing) that can be added to or removed as the community risk level of Covid-19 varies, measured as low, medium or high risk. The local Covid-19 community level is tracked at the following websites: [https://covidactnow.org/us/metro/new-york-city-newark-jersey-city\\_ny-nj-pa/?s=39832731](https://covidactnow.org/us/metro/new-york-city-newark-jersey-city_ny-nj-pa/?s=39832731) (for NYC) and <https://www.nj.gov/health/cd/statistics/covid/#1> (for New Jersey).

As always, our protocol is a balance between the needs of children and their families and public health guidance or directives designed to keep everyone, staff and students, safe. But the success of any protocol depends to a great extent on the diligence with which parents observe these protocols. By enrolling in our school all families are expected to comply with the following health and safety policies which are targeted at staff and children that are not immuno-compromised or at risk of severe illness from COVID-19. If your child is at greater risk from this virus, please notify the school as the quarantine and isolation guidance is different.

1. **Daily Health Screening of your Child.** The family of each student must perform this before school. The purpose is to prevent the child from attending school if they-
  - a. Have COVID-19 or COVID-19 symptoms
  - b. Are taking fever-reducing medicine
  - c. Are awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test
  - d. Live in the same household with or have had close contact with someone who in the past 10 days has been in isolation for COVID-19. Close contact is within 6 feet for a cumulative 15 minutes in a 24-hour period. (If this item applies, check with the school for further guidance).
  
2. **Travel Quarantine.** For most of the pandemic, the school has had a travel quarantine if the student had visited a higher risk location than the New York city metropolitan area. Currently, we have no domestic travel quarantine as long as the local area remains medium to high risk similar to many other parts of the country. But if this changes we reserve the right to reimpose a travel quarantine. For international travel please contact the school for guidance (NY school contact: [bhicks@hwis.org](mailto:bhicks@hwis.org); NJ school: [lpurras@hwis.org](mailto:lpurras@hwis.org)).
  
3. **Mask Policy.** All classes and age groups are MASK OPTIONAL at this time unless required if a child tests positive or is in close contact with a positive case. If you prefer that your child wear a mask please inform the classroom teacher. Harassment of students by anyone for wearing/not wearing masks will not be tolerated and may lead to dismissal. Mask wearing is required, though, in the case of close contacts (see paragraph 9), when a child is exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms or any other time it is deemed important to wear a mask by school authorities (such as during a flu outbreak).



4. **COVID-19 Vaccine Policy.** Vaccines and boosters are **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** for students but are not mandatory at this time. NY school staff are required to be vaccinated per the Department of Health and, while vaccinations are optional for NJ staff, over 90% of staff on that campus are vaccinated.
  
5. **Reporting Positive Cases.** If a child in our school or household member has COVID-19, please report the following as applicable:
  - a. Date that symptoms began
  - b. Date that the positive test was taken
  - c. The last day the child was in the school (and whether or not they were in before/after care or afterschool activities)
  - d. Whether the child has a sibling in our school (any program) and, if so, their vaccination/booster status.
  - e. Isolation procedures being followed at home for the positive case (if the positive case is a household member or sibling to a child in our school)
  - f. Whether the individual is at risk of severe illness due to their particular medical condition

Report to-

- i. NY campus: [covidresultsny@hwis.org](mailto:covidresultsny@hwis.org) and [adminny@hwis.org](mailto:adminny@hwis.org) and [bhicks@hwis.org](mailto:bhicks@hwis.org)
  - ii. NJ campus: [covidresultsnj@hwis.org](mailto:covidresultsnj@hwis.org), and [lperras@hwis.org](mailto:lperras@hwis.org) and [bhicks@hwis.org](mailto:bhicks@hwis.org)
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6. **Testing.** Routine COVID-19 testing is currently not required at the school although testing is required for close contacts or to shorten quarantines in some cases, after major holidays and if the community risk level is high enough. All testing will be done outside of school and is the responsibility of the family. Send all test results to either [covidresultsnj@hwis.org](mailto:covidresultsnj@hwis.org) or [covidresultsny@hwis.org](mailto:covidresultsny@hwis.org). Please note that depending on the volume of test results received and school resources available, the school may not be able to review the test results in a timely manner. But we assume that all families are on the “honor system” and will test and report the results when required.
  
  7. **Child with Covid-19 symptoms.** This child will be excluded from class and isolated under adult supervision until their parents or caregiver can pick them up. For everyone’s safety, we ask that pick-up take place as soon as possible. The child can return to school with either-
    - a. **One** negative rapid or PCR test if these tests are conducted at a commercial testing location, hospital, pharmacy, urgent care center or doctor’s office, or
    - b. **Two** negative rapid tests at least 48 hours apart if using at-home test kits (which the school can provide upon request).
    - c. Send test results to either [covidresultsnj@hwis.org](mailto:covidresultsnj@hwis.org) or [covidresultsny@hwis.org](mailto:covidresultsny@hwis.org)



8. **Child with COVID-19.** The procedure to return to school is as follows:

Age of child	Isolation period	To return-
Preschool age, Kindergarten or 1 <sup>st</sup> grade (in September 2022)	10 days with Day 1 being the day after symptom onset or positive test, whichever comes first OR 7 days with a negative test the morning of Day 6 AND Day 8 (to return on Day 8)	-Fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicine -No or improving symptoms -No test required for the 10-day quarantine and exempt from testing for 90 days
2 <sup>nd</sup> grade and above	5 days with Day 1 being the day after symptom onset or positive test	-Fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicine -No or improving symptoms -Must wear mask at all times on days 6-10. To remove mask (for snacks, lunch) during this period the child must be separated from others -No test required and exempt from testing for 90 days

9. **Quarantine protocol for Close Contacts.** The Department of Health is no longer requiring a quarantine for classroom close contacts regardless of vaccination status.

A. A close contact to a positive case, regardless of age, who is NOT a member of the same household, can remain in school as long as they-

- Are asymptomatic (to include being fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicine)
- Test negative on Day 5 (Day 1 is the first day after the last exposure to the positive case), and
- Wear a mask for 10 days after the last exposure to the positive case (and monitor for symptoms) even if the test was negative

B. A close contact to a positive case, regardless of age or vaccination status, who is a member of the same household, should generally quarantine for 5 days, wear a mask for 10 days and test on Day 5 (if the individual had COVID-19 within the past 90 days then the protocol in "A" above applies). BUT PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL ([bhicks@hwis.org](mailto:bhicks@hwis.org) for the New York school and [lperras@hwis.org](mailto:lperras@hwis.org) for the NJ school) TO CONFIRM as the exact guidance depends on several factors like the status of other household members, the isolation procedures followed for the positive case and the age and vaccination status of the quarantined individual. But we follow this protocol because we have seen time and again that once a household member tests positive for COVID-19 it is just a matter of time before it spreads to other household members



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In either scenario “A” or “B” it is also recommended that the individual quarantine when not at school and refrain from extracurricular activities where consistent masking is not possible.



## Part III: Academic Program Options

The goal is to operate with On-site Learning provided it is safe to do so. The Hybrid model (some students virtual; some on-site) and Remote model (entire class is remote) would be implemented in the event of heightened health risks. The Hybrid model is the least desirable option, however, as it is very difficult to execute well. For this reason, it will be implemented only when absolutely necessary. For both learning modes, remote technology is available as necessary (video conferencing cameras, for example).

Hybrid learning would be introduced when-

- A child is isolating due to COVID yet the rest of the class (or a majority) remain on-site
- A child is quarantining due to COVID yet the rest of the class (or a majority) remain on-site
- A child has a long-term illness or other condition which prevents their return on-site yet allows them to participate remotely (contact the school for details)

Restrictions on hybrid learning:

- Hybrid learning is not available in cases where the child is removed from school for personal reasons (extended family vacation, etc.)
- Hybrid learning can only be offered if the school has sufficient staff to do so

Remote learning would be introduced when-

- An entire class must quarantine for health reasons
- A significant number of teachers must work remotely for health reasons
- The school is ordered to by health authorities
- The majority of a class must remain remote and there is insufficient staff to offer hybrid learning

**In all cases of remote or hybrid learning this would start 1 working day after the school is aware of the necessity of doing this so that teachers have time to prepare.**



<b>How do the options compare?</b>		
	<b>On-site Instruction</b>	<b>Remote or Hybrid Learning when not on-site</b>
Schedule	All grade levels, 5 days a week. Student will follow the class daily schedule.	All grade levels, 5 days a week. A schedule will be established at a later date for students with synchronous (live) or asynchronous (recorded) learning according to the on-site class schedule. All teacher led instruction will be recorded and uploaded to Google Classroom.
Courses	All courses will be available	Art, Music and PE may only be available via pre-recorded lessons.
Health Protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Masks</li><li>• Temperature screening</li><li>• Co-horting (keeping students in small groups)</li><li>• Social distancing</li><li>• Staggered start/stop pick-up/drop-off times</li><li>• Limitations on access to the school for parents/non-school personnel</li><li>• No sharing of PE equipment, pens, papers, notebooks, etc.</li><li>• HEPA filtration in each classroom</li><li>• Mandatory weekly COVID testing</li></ul>	Not Applicable
HWIS After School Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• On-site</li></ul>	Available virtually depending on length of time class is to be virtual
Social Emotional Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Our faculty and administration are committed to providing social- emotional support to all students and families through these challenging times.</li></ul>	Same



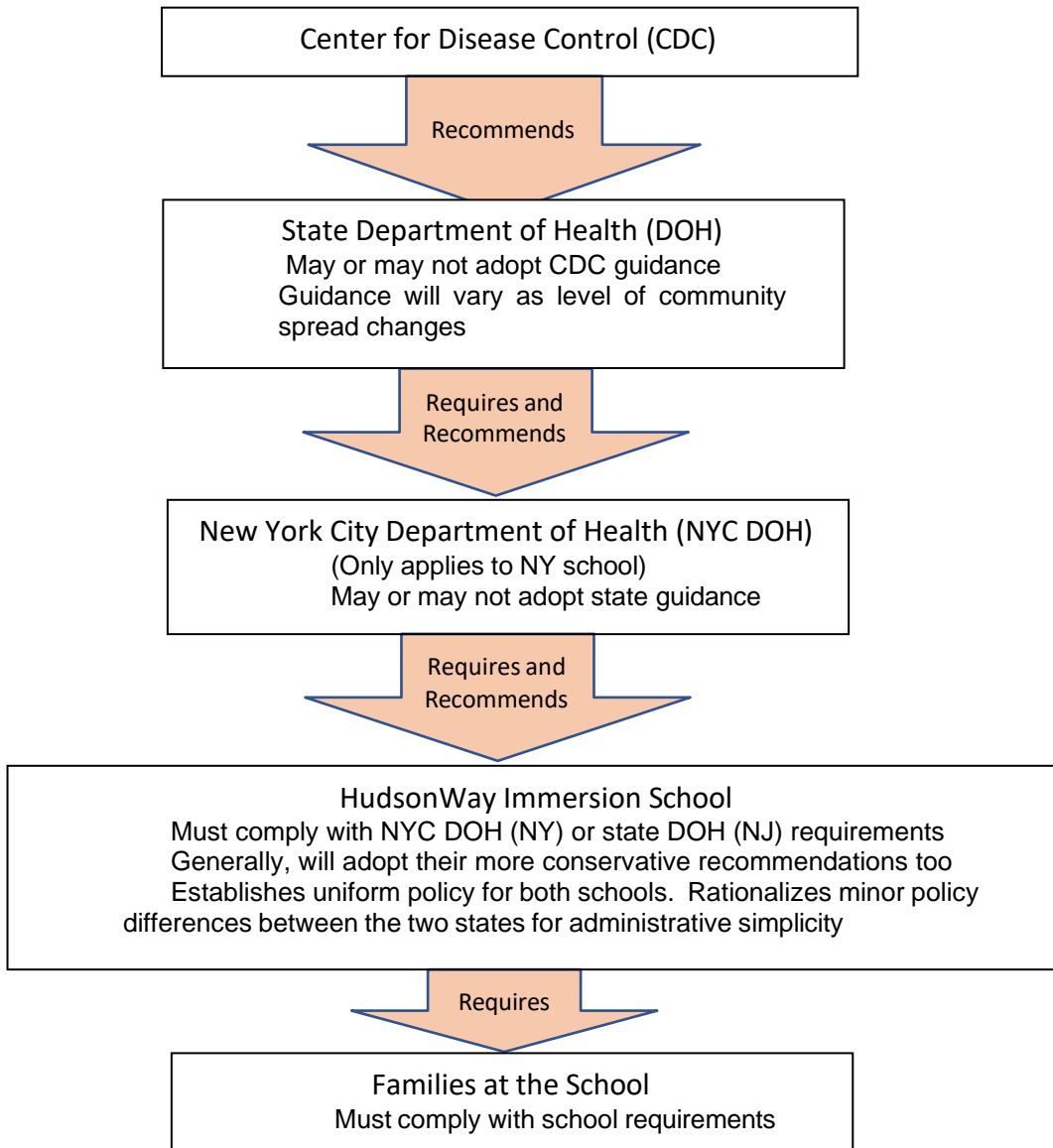
<b>Parent Responsibilities for the Remote Learning Option</b>		
<b>Grade Level</b>	<b>Parents must</b>	<b>Parents should consider</b>
PreK – Grade 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Parent must provide internet and computer access or request access from the school.</li><li>▪ Parent must sit with students for most synchronous and asynchronous learning.</li><li>▪ Parent must be available for a teacher conference weekly.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Attention span of younger students</li><li>▪ This option may provide less social emotional learning and informal play.</li><li>▪ Specials classes are limited.</li><li>▪ One on One reading instruction may be less optimal in this setting</li></ul>





# Appendix 1

## Health Regulatory Structure that applies to HWIS





## Appendix Quarantine Guidance

The requirements to safely quarantine include:

- The individual must not be in public or otherwise leave the quarters that they have identified for their quarantine.
- The individual must be situated in separate quarters with a separate bathroom facility for each family group. Access to a sink with soap, water, and paper towels is necessary. Cleaning supplies (e.g., household cleaning wipes, bleach) must be provided in any shared bathroom.
- The individual must have a way to self-quarantine from household members as soon as a fever or other symptoms develop, in a separate room(s) with a separate door. Given that an exposed person might become ill while sleeping, the exposed person must sleep in a separate bedroom from household members.
- Food must be delivered to the person's quarters.
- Quarters must have a supply of face masks for individuals to put on if they become symptomatic.
- Garbage must be bagged and left outside for routine pick up. Special handling is not required.
- A system for temperature and symptom monitoring must be implemented to provide assessment in-place for the quarantined persons in their separate quarters.
- Nearby medical facilities must be notified, if the individual begins to experience more than mild symptoms and may require medical assistance.
- The quarters must be secure against unauthorized access.



## Appendix

# Code of Conduct and Waiver Agreement

HudsonWay Immersion School values our community. As such, we realize that an individual's actions impact those around us. As we return to school in the midst of a pandemic, we must all agree on a shared set of principles and daily actions that reflect guidelines from public health experts and agencies that will allow us to create a healthy, safe environment conducive to the HudsonWay experience.

1. We agree to reinforce healthy habits outside of school such as safe social distancing, frequent handwashing and use of masks, as necessary, when in the proximity of groups of people outside of the immediate family.
2. We understand and acknowledge that the school has implemented safety and health guidelines that require all students participating in-person schooling observe certain practices and precautions designed to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19. We acknowledge and agree that the student will abide by such guidelines.
3. We agree to be complete and truthful in our communications with the school regarding symptoms of COVID-19 of our children or others in the household, travel plans and any other information deemed relevant by the school to assess risk during the pandemic. If we test our children or others in the household, we agree to inform the school of the results within 1 hour if positive and 12 hours if negative after receiving the result.
4. We agree to respect the privacy of students and families by not communicating anyone's personally identifiable health related information.
5. We agree to respect the decision of others to mask or unmask, vaccinate or abstain or adopt or not adopt other health policies when they are optional.
6. We agree that the school has the authority to make the final decision as to whether a child can attend school on-site. If a child shows COVID-19 symptoms during the school day, we agree that we will make every effort to pick up the child as quickly as possible.
7. We acknowledge the continued presence of the COVID-19 pandemic (the "Pandemic") and assume all risks associated with the Pandemic, including, without limitation, the possible dissemination of the virus from other attendees of the Program. The undersigned hereby releases Bilingual Buds LLC (NJ program) or Bilingual Buds NYC (NY program) d/b/a Hudsonway Immersion School, and their respective officers, directors, members, shareholders, employees and agents from and against any and all claims, liabilities, actions and damages that the undersigned and/or the child of the undersigned enrolled at the Program, and/or any of the undersigned other family members may sustain as a result of the undersigned child's attendance at the program.



**Electronic "Signature" Agreement & Security.** Please sign the Electronic Code of Conduct and Waiver Agreement by entering your full name in the spaces provided and emailing the agreement to the school office. Your typed name and date will together serve as your signature for this Electronic Authorization and Release from Liability. The electronic signature below and related fields are treated by HudsonWay Immersion School like a physical handwritten signature on a paper form as if actually signed by you in writing. Further, you agree that no certification authority or other third-party verification is necessary to validate your electronic signature, and that the lack of such certification or third-party verification will not in any way affect the enforceability of your signature or any resulting contract between you and the school.

Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian 1:

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

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Signature of Parent/Legal Guardian 2:

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)

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