



**Heilicher COVID Policies  
2022-23 School Year  
August 2022**

*Below, please find answers to many questions that you may have regarding Heilicher's COVID policies for the beginning of the 2022-23 school year.*

*All COVID-related policies will be informed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Minnesota Department of Health guidelines, but may be adapted in response to the COVID Risk Level in our county, community, and school. As always, these practices and guidelines are continuously evolving. We will continue to communicate as conditions dictate.*

**What mitigating measures is Heilicher taking against COVID?**

1. Encouraging COVID vaccinations for everyone.
2. Requiring staff and students to stay home when they are sick.
3. Following Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines for COVID Isolation and Quarantine.
4. Promoting good hand washing and sanitizing practices.
5. Maximizing ventilation and running HEPA air filters in every classroom.
6. Intensive cleaning and disinfecting surfaces routinely.

**Will Heilicher require masks indoors or outdoors?**

*In line with the current CDC Guidelines, wearing a mask is optional indoors and outdoors.*

Importantly, we *will* require short-term, indoor masking for students or faculty who are exposed to COVID, or have been diagnosed with COVID and are returning to school after a 5-day quarantine. [Nurse Katie](#) will provide case-by-case guidance.

### **How much distance will there be between student desks/work spaces and will physical distancing be enforced?**

Physical distancing will be encouraged. However, after-school activities, league and individual sports, HaBonim, band and choir will take place as in a “typical” school year. All-school assemblies will occur in person, and family members are encouraged to attend.

### **How do I report a COVID diagnosis or exposure?**

All COVID diagnoses or close contact exposures, as well as symptoms of any other illness, absences, late drop-offs, and early pickups, should be reported promptly through the [Heilicher Communication Center](#). This reporting portal is absolutely critical to keeping our Heilicher faculty and staff informed of student illness or absences and maintaining the health of our school community.

### **What are Heilicher’s Guidelines for COVID Isolation and Quarantine?**

If you enter your student’s COVID diagnosis or exposure, or you report any symptoms, through the [Heilicher Communication Center](#), please wait for [Nurse Katie](#) to contact you *before you send any of your children to school that day*.

Generally speaking:

- Vaccinated students are *not* required to quarantine after a close contact COVID exposure, although we will require short-term masking and ask that you administer a rapid COVID test to your child on day 5 after exposure.
- Students who are diagnosed with COVID must stay home for five days, and wear a mask for five additional days after returning to school.

Please see these links for information on MDH guidelines for COVID isolation and quarantine. These policies will guide our own approach, although we may adjust them as needed to address individual circumstances.

[COVID-19 Quarantine Guide MDH](#)

[COVID-19 Isolation Guide MDH](#)

### **Where will students eat lunch this year?**

The school will no longer be serving lunch to students in their individual classrooms. They will eat in the dining room, as they did prior to COVID.

Per CDC guidelines, we will require that students or staff members who have been diagnosed or have had a close contact exposure to COVID eat separately in a supervised environment for a period of time (likely 5 days) following their return to school.

**Will Heilicher be requiring staff/faculty or students to be vaccinated against COVID?**

As we did last year, Heilicher is requiring all faculty and staff to be vaccinated against COVID. We feel this is an important step to keep our school community safe.

Heilicher is *not* requiring students to be vaccinated against COVID, although this policy may change with evolving circumstances or new MDH/CDC guidelines. That said, we strongly encourage families with children who are eligible for the vaccine to get it. As recommended by the MDH, quarantine guidelines will differ for vaccinated versus unvaccinated students.

**Will there be a Total Distance Learning Program option for families this year?**

At this time, we will *not* be offering a Total Distance Learning Program for students this year. *Only* students who are in quarantine for COVID exposure or diagnosis may participate in remote learning during the time that they are out of school, as their health and school resources permit.

**Will parents and grandparents be allowed to visit Heilicher this year?**

Parents, grandparents and other family members are encouraged to be a part of daily life at Heilicher. If you are coming into school for a volunteer role, please check in at the Heilicher front desk when you arrive.

We request that adults visiting the building be up to date on their COVID vaccine series, or to wear a mask if not vaccinated. If you have any signs of illness or are within your COVID quarantine period, please do not visit the school.