

Charter Arts Back-to-School Q&A

Updated 8.27.21

Charter Arts Health and Safety Plan Updated 7.22.21 - Click [HERE](#) to view.

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
Will my child be required to wear a face mask?	Yes. Masks will be required at Charter Arts for students, employees, and visitors until further notice. Charter Arts will utilize multiple data sources to determine what tier of masking will be required, including: COVID case counts by county, percent positivity rates by county, our building vaccination rate, and building case counts.
How long will mandatory masking last?	Masking will be required until further notice and data will continue to be monitored weekly. Administration will evaluate masking requirements monthly and will communicate any updates or changes with stakeholders through various communication channels.
What are the exceptions to the mandatory face covering requirement?	<p>Any student who has a medical or mental condition or disability, with pertinent supporting medical information, and documented in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or IDEA.</p> <p>Any staff member who has a medical or mental condition or disability, with pertinent supporting medical information, and documented in accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.</p> <p>To request an exemption from wearing a mask, parents/guardians and employees should consult with the nurse and provide appropriate documentation from a doctor.</p>
Why require masking if Charter Arts has high vaccination rates among employees and students?	<p>CDC guidance provides for an exemption for students who appropriately mask in the K-12 setting when students are within 3-6ft and consistently wear well-fitting masks. By requiring masks, we hope to mitigate the spread of COVID and its various variants in our building and reduce the amount of students and employees that need to quarantine if they come in contact with an infected individual.</p> <p><i>"In the K-12 indoor classroom setting, the close contact definition excludes students who were within 3 to 6 feet of an infected student (laboratory-confirmed or a clinically compatible illness) if both the infected student and the exposed student(s) correctly and consistently wore well-fitting masks the entire time."</i></p> <p>CDC source link</p>
If my child is identified as a close contact through an activity outside of Charter Arts, what should I do?	Families should notify nurse@charterarts.org if their child has been identified as a close contact. The Nurse will provide recommendations based on the information provided. All students should utilize the self-screener checklist daily and monitor symptoms. If any students have symptoms, they should not come to school and should see their doctor for further guidance.
What happens if a student or employee is identified as a close contact while at Charter Arts?	Any student or employee that is identified as a close contact will be notified. Contact tracing and appropriate public health reporting will begin promptly following Charter Arts receipt of written test results of a positive case of Covid-19. Students identified as close contacts of the positive case will be notified via email. Please be sure that you have provided the school with your preferred email address as this will be the main method of communication with families. Email updates should be submitted to

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	<p>admissions@charterarts.org. This email notification will include specific quarantine /isolation, testing information, and masking requirements. A return to school date will also be provided.</p>
Will my student have an option to be fully remote?	<p>Charter Arts will not be offering an online opportunity for learning this year. All students will be learning together in the building five days a week.</p>
Are students and staff required to stay at home when they are sick?	<p>Yes. Students, employees, and visitors should utilize this Self-Screener Checklist daily. Anyone experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 should stay at home. Parents/guardians should notify both the Attendance Coordinator and the School Nurse should a student be absent because of COVID symptoms. Employees who are experiencing symptoms should utilize our absence management software to enter daily absences and should be in communication with their direct supervisor and the school nurse.</p>
If a student or employee has knowingly been exposed to someone with Covid, should they report this to the school and remain at home?	<p>Exposures are not the same as close contacts. If you have been identified as a possible exposure, please contact your doctor or our school nurse should you have additional questions.</p>
Will Charter Arts ever close or move to hybrid learning due to COVID cases?	<p>Charter Arts Administration will activate our Health and Safety Plans A (fully remote), B (hybrid), and C (fully in person) as necessary based on data and consultation with our local health partners, including St. Luke's, IU20, and the Bethlehem Health Bureau. We maintain the ability to be flexible throughout this school year to ensure the safety of our community. Should Charter Arts need to move to Plan A or B, for any period of time due to high building case counts or other local data/factors, the Administration will update stakeholders accordingly.</p>
Where will students eat lunch?	<p>All students will eat lunch in the Commons Cafe as assigned. Students can bring their lunch or families can order lunch through the Heathland Food Service (order must be placed in advance). The order form is also posted on the school website under the STUDENTS tab.</p> <p>After Labor Day, 11th and 12th graders will have access to Open Campus should they have parent approval and be in good standing at Charter Arts. Students cannot leave the building until a signed permission slip has been submitted to the Main Office so please have that ready to turn in on the first day of school for processing should your child want to participate in Open Campus.</p>
Will Charter Arts require social distancing?	<p>Charter Arts encourages social distancing to the maximum extent possible in all areas within our school building. Some classes and areas will have more room to spread out based on square footage and students per classroom. Teachers will maintain seating charts when applicable.</p>
Will students be required to wear a mask on school transportation?	<p>According to the Federal order issued in January 2021, the CDC requires face coverings, regardless of vaccination status, when on public transportation - this includes on school buses operated by public and private school systems. However, a driver does not need to wear a face covering if they are the only person on the bus.</p>

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<p>What are the plans for collaboration and mitigation in the artistic areas?</p>	<p>Each artistic area will be maintaining distancing to the maximum extent possible based on their curriculum needs. Additional and specific questions can be addressed by each Artistic Director.</p>
<p>How often will classrooms and the school be cleaned and sanitized?</p>	<p>Our custodial team will be cleaning the school building daily and will use our sanitizing sprayers in the building as needed. Cleaning materials will be available in each classroom, and students and teachers have the option to clean the desks if they so choose when they enter/exit the rooms but will not be required to do so.</p>
<p>Will students still have access to Chromebooks?</p>	<p>Yes. All Charter Arts students will receive a school-issued Chromebook to utilize for school work throughout the duration of the school year. Students should use their school issued device for all school related work and not their personal devices.</p>
<p>Will Charter Arts take students on field trips this year and/or bring in artists for master classes, etc?</p>	<p>Charter Arts will continue to bring in visiting artists and take trips during Plan C, in person learning. Should Charter Arts need to move to Plan A or B (hybrid or fully remote learning), field trips and visiting artists will be limited or cancelled to preserve the safety of our community.</p>

Charter Arts Decision Making Criteria and Color Coding Fall 2021

<p>0-9.99 Case Counts per 100k residents = LOW transmission 10-49.9 Case Counts per 100k = MODERATE transmission Under 5% Positivity = LOW transmission 5-7.99% Positivity = MODERATE transmission Building vaccination rate* Building student/staff case counts*</p>	<p>LOW/MODERATE case counts and percent positivity = MASKS OPTIONAL for ALL but still Recommended</p>
<p>50-99.9 Case Counts per 100k = SUBSTANTIAL transmission Between 8-9.9% Positivity = SUBSTANTIAL transmission Building vaccination rate* Building student/staff case counts*</p>	<p>SUBSTANTIAL level case counts and percent positivity = MASKS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED for ALL; REQUIRED for Employees when with students, unvaccinated individuals, and anyone that doesn't provide proof of vaccination</p>
<p>100+ Case Counts per 100k = HIGH transmission 10%+ Positivity = HIGH transmission Building vaccination rate* Building student/staff case counts*</p>	<p>HIGH level case counts and percent positivity = MASKS REQUIRED for ALL indoors</p>