



Family Update - Safe Return to Campus

December 17, 2020

Dear Horizons Families:

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah! We hope you are enjoying restful time with your student during this holiday season. Our staff is finalizing Fall Term Student Reports, completing the Spring 2021 Term schedule, and cleaning the school building before students return.

Our state and Nation must respond to widespread transmission of COVID-19. Clinical professionals urge caution for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, as well as certain medication conditions (asthma and chronic lung disease, diabetes, obesity, heart disease, and others). These individuals are at greater risk of coronavirus infection and may have poorer outcomes than the general public.

Horizons staff continue safety practices by requiring face coverings, screening visitors, social distancing, temperature and safety checks, personal hygiene, cleaning and regular disinfection. **How may YOU as a caregiver reduce risk to your family and others?** The U.S. CDC urges Americans to *“consider how your holiday plans can be modified to reduce the spread of COVID-19 to keep your friends, families, and communities healthy and safe.”*

1. **Limit holiday gatherings** to no more than 10 people, ideally with members of the same immediate household. Asymptomatic carriers may unintentionally spread infection to others. You cannot tell who has COVID-19 by appearance.
2. **Watch this 1-minute video** from the WHO, [If you are going out...](#)
3. **Avoid crowds** -- sporting events, theme parks, indoor performances, pageants, parades, Posadas, weddings, and busy shopping malls.
 - a. Students who have been in crowded settings with less than 6-feet between others should quarantine at home for at least 10 days before classes resume.
 - b. Please contact us if this is the case for your family and we will discuss options, such as virtual instruction.
4. Avoid non-essential travel. During car trips, practice safety. **Limit time spent indoors in crowded settings with less than 6-feet between others. Wear face coverings, and thoroughly wash hands when stopping.**

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5. **Emphasize individual preventive practices for all family members:**
 - a. regular hand washing
 - b. sneeze and cough in tissues and then discard
 - c. frequently disinfect commonly used home items and surfaces
 - d. use face coverings when in public
 - e. vaccinate for seasonal flu
6. Students who have COVID-19 symptoms, or who had recent close contact (within 6 feet for a total of 15 minutes or more) with someone with COVID-19 **must quarantine at home and consult a physician.**
 - a. CDC hosts a useful [Coronavirus Self-Checker](#) to assist you to decide when to seek testing or medical care.
 - b. These individuals should also quarantine at home for at least 10 days to reduce the risk of further transmission to relatives, friends and classmates. We will make plans for virtual learning to protect everyone.
7. **Do not return ill students to campus in January.** Students live in close proximity. We do not employ clinical professionals and have no facilities to isolate a sick student. **A student infected with COVID-19 may endanger others.**

Thanks for your cooperation to keep everyone healthy. Please contact me (bgeiger@horizonsschool.org) if you have any questions.

Our Staff wishes each of you a warm and peaceful holiday season. We look forward to welcoming students in January 2021!

Brian F. Geiger

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