

HMNS Statement to Parents/Guardians Regarding 2022-2023 Weekday Lab Operations

The HMNS Summer Programs staff understand that conditions surrounding COVID-19 may change before and during the school-year. The masking policy will be determined using the CDC COVID-19 Community Levels protocols. If [Harris County](#) reaches the “High” level, masking will be mandatory for the lower level classrooms at the main museum location. If [Fort Bend County](#) reaches “High” level, masking will be mandatory for the classrooms at the Sugar Land museum. Signage will be posted should we require masking during your class visit. All HMNS Weekday Lab staff will be required to mask while interacting with students in weekday labs.

The CDC recommends that unvaccinated individuals or those at high risk for severe illness continue to wear a mask. You may choose to have your student mask up at any time.

The health and safety of our patrons is always our first priority. The HMNS Weekday Lab program has extensive health and safety procedures in place every year. This school-year, with COVID-19 and its variants in mind, HMNS Youth Education is updating these procedures extensively, informed by current recommendations from local agencies and federal health officials, including CDC guidelines. The modifications include:

Social Distancing and Crowd Limitations

- Conducting each lab in a double-classroom with spaced seating.
- Reducing the number of adults (including chaperones) per classroom.

Health Monitoring

- Please monitor your own temperatures/symptoms prior to leaving your home to attend HMNS Labs.
- If your child has been exposed to anyone with symptoms of, or a confirmed case of Covid-19:
 - If your child is not vaccinated, we recommend that you do not send your child to HMNS Weekday Labs.
 - If your child is vaccinated, please watch for symptoms until 5 days have passed since exposure.
 - Any student that has been exposed to a symptomatic person or confirmed case should wear a mask for at least 5 days anytime they are around others including at Weekday Labs.
- According to the State Texas Health Protocols the following are possible symptoms of COVID-19:
 - Sore Throat
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Chills
 - Repeated shaking with chills
 - Muscle pain

- Headache
- Loss of taste or smell
- Diarrhea
- Feeling feverish or a measured temperature greater than or equal to 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit

Masking

If [Harris County](#) reaches the “High” level, masking will be mandatory for the lower level classrooms at the main museum location. If [Fort Bend County](#) reaches “High” level, masking will be mandatory for the classrooms at the Sugar Land museum. Signage will be posted should we require masking during your class visit. Please keep the following in mind when masking is required:

- All staff who engage with students will wear face masks regardless of Community Levels protocols.
- Face masks are required for all individuals participating in classes in the classrooms.
- Face masks must cover the nose and mouth.
- Face masks must be worn unless actively eating or drinking.
 - *Reminder that food and drink are not allowed on the lower level.*
- By entering the weekday lab classrooms, you are agreeing to comply with the Face Mask Policy. Any individuals found in noncompliance will be asked to leave the building without any reimbursement for entry or programming.
- You may choose to have your student mask up at any time.

Cleaning and Sanitization

- Hand sanitizer will be available in each of the classrooms.
- Patrons are encouraged to wash or sanitize their hands often throughout the day.
- All staff who engage with students will wear face masks.

General modifications for HMNS are available for review on the Museum’s Health and Safety page here: <http://www.hmns.org/visit/health-and-safety/>. We will continue to be informed by local guidelines and make necessary operational modifications as needed. The HMNS Youth Education staff will continue working non-stop to develop additional protocols and procedures that prioritize the health and safety of our participants. Should any of our policies change, your group will be notified via email.

We are looking forward to providing your students with fun, engaging, and educational programs in a healthy and safe environment. We hope you all are staying safe and taking good care of yourselves, and we look forward to seeing you again soon!

Sincerely,
The HMNS Youth Education Team