



“Prevention is our Focus”

**Working to Control All
That We Can Control**

**Controlling to Help Prevent the Spread of
Infectious Diseases**

October 10, 2023

***A Restorative Practices Community
Where Children are our Priority***

**“Return to In-Person Instruction
& Continuity of Service Plan”**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Mission Statement	1
Vision Statement	1
Safety Plan for the 2023/2024 School Year	2
Controlling for a Safe School Environment	2
Overview of Our Approach.....	2
Levels of Protection Strategies: Health Clinic, Vaccination, Mask Wearing, Ventilation, Physical Distancing, Screening and Testing.....	2
Other Prevention Strategies	3
Hope Academy Protocols.....	4
Commitment.....	4

Mission Statement

The Mission of Hope Academy is to provide a positive, nurturing, and collaborative educational environment where we can ensure the intellectual, social, and physical development of every student.

Vision Statement

Hope Academy will be the premier charter school of choice for elementary and middle school students.

Safety Plan for the 2023/2024 School Year

The health, wellness, and the safety of students, staff, parents, and visitors is our top priority. It is the goal of the Hope Academy School Community to support equity in learning, and health and wellness by demonstrating to our School Community that prevention strategies are in place to help students, staff, families, visitors, and keep the School Community safe and provide an environment for in-person learning. Hope Academy continues to maintain continuity of services, as our students return to in-person learning.

The Hope Academy Board of Directors continues to support the established school-based Health Clinic with professional health care providers to support the health and wellness of students and their families. The Board of Directors is supportive of continuing to implement layers of preventative strategies that can help to prevent the spread of infectious diseases such as COVID-19, Influenza (Flu), and other respiratory viruses that will help to support healthy learning in a healthy work environment.

Strategies for Everyday Operation

In planning for this school year, we have reviewed guidelines and recommendations from several sources on how to support prevention strategies in our school. The specific CDC guidelines for K-12 schools across the country indicate that : “Students continue to benefit greatly from in-person learning, and safety and prevention measures are effective.”

CONTROLLING FOR A SAFE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT:

Safety is everyone’s business. To effectively control for a safe school environment every member of the Hope Academy school community must be a part of assessing continuously for effective safety protocols and adherence to all of the safety protocols.

The purpose of this plan is to provide information to the Hope Academy team that will help to keep the school community safe, and provide education on prevention and health and wellness strategies in the midst of COVID-19 and the flu virus.

Overview of Our Approach

The most recent May 2023 update from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) indicates the following: *“A growing body of evidence suggests that people who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and the flu are less likely to become infected and develop symptoms, and are at substantially reduced risk from severe illness and death from COVID-19, compared with unvaccinated people.”* The CDC recommends that K-12 schools should have in place layers of protection as a way to help prevent the spread of infectious diseases.

Hope Academy leadership is aware that there may be staff who are not able to take the vaccine due to health related issues, or religious and faith reasons. In all that we do to provide a safe work environment, it will be done at a comprehensive level to help protect the vaccinated and unvaccinated team members of our Hope Academy school community.

Layers of Protection Strategies

The levels of protection includes an onsite Health Clinic, recommending vaccinations, wearing masks, ventilation, physical distancing, screening and testing,

1. Health Clinic: Hope Academy has an onsite Health Clinic to provide for the health needs of students and their families. However, we encourage parents to sign the form giving permission for their children to be seen by the Clinic, as may be needed.
2. Vaccination: The CDC continues to promote vaccinations for COVID-19, the flu, and other viruses as a key factor in the prevention and/or protection against infectious diseases. The CDC also recommends staying up to date on routine vaccinations.
3. Mask Wearing: Mask wearing is not a requirement. However, the CDC does recommend the wearing of a mask if there is a high positivity rate of COVID-19, the flu, or other respiratory illnesses. Hope Academy has available an abundant supply of masks available for staff, students, or parents as may be needed or requested.
4. Ventilation: Good ventilation in the school ensures a healthy school environment and effective ventilation. Hope Academy has invested in ensuring effective ventilation throughout the school. Each classroom and commonly used large spaces will have the NuWave Oxypure Smart Air Purifier.
5. Physical Distancing: Physical distancing is no longer a requirement. However, if the positivity rate rises to a level where the Detroit Health Department recommends physical distancing, we will return to physical distancing, as may be indicated by the Health Department.

6. Screening and Testing: The CDC no longer recommends routine screening and testing for K-12 schools, unless there are symptoms and exposure for students. If a student demonstrates symptoms of COVID-19, the flu, or any other respiratory illnesses, or other type illnesses, they will be referred to the Hope Academy Health Clinic for screening and testing if the permission of parents has been granted to be referred to the Health Clinic.

The recommended layers of defense against COVID-19 adopted by BES for Hope Academy, demonstrates that not just one prevention approach is perfect, but layering them together increases the success of having a safe school environment.

Other Prevention Strategies

1. Hand-Washing and Respiratory Etiquette

Hope Academy recommends that handwashing is for 20 seconds; and covering coughs and sneezes in elbows or with a cloth, but never using one's hands. Ample sanitizing solutions and products are available in large quantities.

All staff, students and visitors are encouraged to use the hand sanitizer device when entering the building and throughout the day.

Hand washing and/or sanitizing should occur before each meal and after using the restroom.

2. Staying Home When Sick/Sick in School

Both staff and students should stay home when they are sick, regardless of the type of sickness. Both staff and students should stay home if they believe they have symptoms of COVID-19 or the flu, and should be tested and see their physician.

If a student becomes sick while in school, several options may be used:

- First, notify administration and notify the parent and seek permission to refer the student to the Hope Clinic.
- Contact the Hope Clinic to have the student evaluated.
- The clinic staff will recommend the need to go home or remain in school.
- If the student must go home, notify the parent and escort the student to the designated holding room for students who are sick. Some level of supervision must be provided for the student until the parent arrives.

3. Cleaning and Disinfection

Hope Academy is committed to ensuring a clean, sanitized, and disinfected work environment. Hope Academy has assumed the financial responsibility to provide

all of the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) supplies and equipment as needed to reinforce a safe, clean, and sanitized work environment.

Hope Academy Protocols

- We will continue to encourage all unvaccinated members of the School Community to consider vaccination.
- We continue to encourage parents to consider having their children, who are 12 years of age or older, vaccinated.
- Hope Academy has in place protocols for utilizing multiple layers of prevention strategies. The multi-layers strategies have been described by the CDC, and strongly recommended and reinforced by the MDHHS.
- Hope Academy will work to ensure a high level of ventilation within classrooms and common areas.
- If a student or staff test positive for COVID-19, a determination will be made regarding who, where, when, and how long will isolation and quarantine be necessary. These decisions will be made in consultation with parents, the Health Clinic, and one's personal physician.
- Professional cleaning and sanitizing will occur in all areas impacted by the exposure.
- Water fountains in the building will continue to remain locked. Ample supply of bottled water is available for staff, students, and visitors.
- Each classroom teacher is equipped with the classroom PPE bucket of supplies, which includes sanitary wipes, masks, and other materials.
- The Hope Health Clinic is available to support staff, students, and parents with healthcare needs. They are equipped and qualified to help and respond to COVID-19 related issues.

COMMITMENT

Hope Academy and BFDI Educational Services are committed to maintaining a safe school environment for staff, students, parents, and visitors. We are committed to make the right safety decision and provide the needed resources to control all that we can control to prevent the spread of COVID-19, flu, and other infectious diseases.



Bishop Andrew J.D. Merritt, *Founder 1998*

Board of Directors

Angela Polk, President
Nanette DePriest, Vice President
Kenneth Davis, Treasurer
Chedrin Chambers, Secretary
Kenneth Bland, Member
Melissa Dunmore, Member

School Administration

Dr. Ronald Williams, Superintendent
Patricia Davis, Principal/CAO
Rhonda Calloway, Assistant Principal
Alana Purnell, Assistant Principal

Educational Service Provider

Alice G. Thompson, CEO
BFDI Educational Services, Inc.
22503 Grand River, #19311
Detroit, Michigan 48219

Charter Agent

Eastern Michigan University

Hope Academy is a "Restorative Practices" Community