



COVID-19 Update  
Effective January 31, 2022

This year has been a learning curve for all, with an influx of new challenges and opportunities. As promised, the admin team has spent time reflecting on the new challenges of 2022 in relation to Covid, and we will make the following adjustments, beginning next Monday, January 31.

- Our heaviest emphasis is on **staying home while sick**. We have experienced first-hand the extreme contagiousness of Omicron, with more than double the cases in January as we saw throughout the entire first semester. If your child has symptoms of Covid, even if they seem mild, please keep them home and test as soon as possible to prevent avoidable exposures on campus. Every household can order four free tests [here](#). The sick day guidelines are also [linked here](#) for your reference.
- **Masks are strongly recommended** for students in **grades 1-12 but not required**. This decision was made acknowledging that our case rates from last month show that our current mask protocol is not making headway in fighting this variant on campus.
  - With our commitment to running as normal a schedule and program as possible to support the healthy growth and development of our kids, including sports and activities, we cannot enforce the type of proper and consistent usage on campus that could meaningfully limit transmission of Omicron.
  - Nor are we able to guarantee universal use of the masks that are most likely to be protective against this variant of Covid, such as KN95s.
  - We are grateful to have observed that our cases on campus have resulted in minor illness, between a cold and a flu, and are hopeful this will become the norm.
  - Should you choose to have your child wear a mask, we will do what we can to support that choice. You are welcome to reach out to your classroom teacher or an administrator if you would like the school to encourage your student to continue to wear a mask consistently on campus.
  - When attending a field trip, students and faculty must comply with the mask requirements and all other rules and regulations of the destination. Please check requirements in advance and keep your child home if you do not wish them to comply.
- **At the ECC, we strongly encourage students in PreK-3 and above to wear masks.** Community rates are still high and many in this division are ineligible for vaccination. However, parents at the ECC can choose whether to have their child wear a mask or not. **Please indicate your choice using the [ECC Mask Choice Form](#)**. It is important we hear your preference so that ECC faculty and staff can follow family mask usage preferences without relying on our youngest students to communicate their choice.
- Parents should continue to **report cases of Covid** to the school through our [reporting form](#). The student should isolate for 5 days if they are positive, in accordance with our school's current [COVID-19 Quarantine and Isolation Guidelines](#). If asymptomatic on day 5, the student can return on day 6, but must wear a well-fitting mask for 5 additional days.
- **According to health agencies and experts, vaccination** is the best way to be protected from severe Covid. We encourage all eligible members of the community to become fully vaccinated and boosted, if eligible, as soon as possible.

You can continue to find the most updated Covid information on our [COVID-19 Information Hub](#) on the CDS website. We appreciate your continued understanding and support as we find our path forward, adjusting to the reality created by the ubiquity of Omicron. As always, we will continue to monitor community conditions and receive guidance from health agencies and experts, updating the community as needed.