

September 16, 2022

To: All Beechwood Families  
Beechwood Staff  
Beechwood Advisory Board

From: Priscilla Taylor

Re.: Masking Update

As always, the health and well-being of our community members is of the utmost importance to all of us. This is especially important in a school environment where keeping children in school and our doors open is of high concern.

### **Mask Guidelines**

Last calendar year, we returned to campus fully masked and ended the year with masks required indoors and optional outdoors.

Following guidance from the CDC and CDPH, masks will become optional indoors effective Monday, September 19th. As is our practice outside, students will not be asked to remove a mask, and all individuals are encouraged to make a choice for themselves. Families should discuss this with their child(-ren) and encourage them to make choices that reflect the conversation/expectations from home.

Under specific circumstances students may be asked to use a mask and/or be required to wear a mask throughout the day:

1. **Symptomatic:** Individuals displaying symptoms while at school will be asked to wear their mask and/or be routed to the main office for a mask.
2. **Return to school from Covid positive isolation:** Individuals who have returned to school after testing negative following day 5 of isolation from a positive Covid test, will be expected to wear a mask for the duration of the 10 day period of time.
3. **Exposure:** Individuals who have been exposed to Covid will be required to wear a mask at school until they test negative after day 5 of the exposure notification period.

### **Vaccination**

We continue to strongly recommend that all students who are age eligible for vaccination receive the vaccine as soon as possible. It is our opinion based on recommendations from the CDC, CDPH and SMCH that vaccination is our best defense against this virus, and the best path for us to keep our school open.

Vaccination clinics and recommended guidelines are posted on the community board in the main office, and will be shared via the newsletter throughout the year.

Please notify the main office of any change to your child's vaccination status.

### **COVID Testing**

Weekly covid testing of students has been halted, effectively immediately. Per information shared during parent orientation, Covid tests will be required for the following circumstances:

1. After having been isolated due to a positive COVID test, individuals who test negative after day 5 but before day 10, will be expected to provide another negative test before returning to campus. A mask will be required for the remaining days of the 10 day isolation period.
2. Students who have been absent with Covid symptoms will be asked to provide a negative COVID test upon return to school.
3. Prior to Thanksgiving vacation and Christmas vacation, students will be asked to test on the Wednesdays leading-up to and following those holidays. **NOTE:** more specific and possibly adjusted guidance will be provided closer to those holidays.
4. Testing prior to field trips and outdoor education experiences.
5. Testing following large event gatherings on campus.

With the masking optional indoors, I think it prudent to remind all community members that we must consider the health and well-being of all members of our community and to that effect, please consider the following

- Stay home when you are sick/feeling unwell.
- Adults who are symptomatic are asked to please call the office and/or reschedule visits to campus.
- Continue to send a mask to school with your child, whether worn or in their backpack. ‘
- Remember the importance of hand sanitization and proper, frequent handwashing.

Thank you for your continued support.