

COVID Policy for Parents/Town Hall August 10, 2021

The NJ Dept of Health has a new mask mandate, "effective Monday, August 9, 2021, all students, educators, staff, and visitors will be required to wear face masks... in the indoor premises of all public, private, and parochial preschool, elementary, and secondary school buildings regardless of vaccination status," for the start of the 2021-2022 academic year. Masks are required for all students and staff on a school bus. This policy is subject to change, based on local or school transmission rates and/or variants in the community.

We will no longer require the Magnus Daily COVID-19 screening, but we would continue to emphasize the importance of **STAYING HOME WHEN ILL**. In most cases, vaccinated students do not need a negative COVID test to return to school after an illness. However, unvaccinated students with COVID-19 compatible symptoms, or any illness not diagnosed by a medical profession as having another cause, must have a negative PCR test to return to school.

The most important way to prevent illness is to practice good hygiene and cough etiquette. Hand washing for 20 seconds with soap and water is best, but using hand sanitizer is a good alternative if a sink is not available. Coughs and sneezes should be done in a tissue or elbow, then dispose of the tissue in the garbage and sanitize hands afterward.

Contact tracing and quarantine of unvaccinated students who test positive for COVID 19, or are within 6 feet for more than 15 minutes of a confirmed COVID positive individual will still be required. "An exception in the **K-12 indoor classroom** setting excludes students who are within 3- 6 feet of an infected student where both students were engaged in consistent and correct use of well-fitting masks."

Vaccination will be the best way to avoid missing school for contact traced or COVID illness.

Presently, NJ does not require quarantine for travel, and Delbarton will not require quarantines for students or staff who travel during the school year. However, according to the CDC, unvaccinated individuals who do travel are recommended to get tested 1-3 days before their trip, 3-5 days after travel, and stay home and self-quarantine for 7 days after domestic travel, defined as lasting 24 hours or longer to states or US territories other than those connected to New Jersey, such as Pennsylvania, New York, and Delaware.

Should you choose to have your son self-quarantine after travel, you should contact Mrs. Deirdre McAuliffe, School Nurse, at dmacauliffe@delbarton.org and your son's Guidance Counselor, so appropriate online learning can be set up for your son.