



Dr. Nicholas J. Spera, Executive Director

Denise M. Dunning, Principal & Director of Special Education

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December 29, 2021

Dear ISAAC Family,

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones enjoying a safe, healthy, and happy winter break. The purpose of this letter is to notify you about the changes in close contact protocols that were announced yesterday by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Public Health (DPH), and the Ledge Light Health District (LLHD). In addition, based on the high percentage of COVID-19 infections being reported in the state and nation, we want to stress the importance of following our strict mitigation strategies moving forward into the new year.

As of today, ISAAC will return back to its normal school schedule beginning on Monday, January 3, 2022. Moreover, all of the mitigation strategies that have been in place will remain including: proper mask wearing, social distancing measures to the greatest extent possible in all learning environments, scheduled cleanings throughout the building including touch points and bathrooms, and continued filtering of clean air through our HVAC systems throughout the building. Furthermore, as has been the practice since last school year, all students will be asked to provide an update on any recent exposures to people with a known positive case of COVID-19, any physical symptoms that may exist, and their social emotional status each morning. This assessment will continue to provide our staff with the information needed to respond to any student in need and/or remove the exposure of a symptomatic student or person identified as an outside of school close contact immediately from the students and staff members in the building.

It is imperative that if any student or staff member is not feeling well and are exhibiting any symptoms, that they remain at home for the day. Remaining at home when exhibiting any symptoms is one of the best mitigation strategies that can be done. Once again, if a student or staff member is exhibiting any of the following symptoms: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea; we ask that they please STAY HOME and GET TESTED. We also ask that anyone over the winter break who has tested positive, been identified as a close contact, and/or are exhibiting symptoms to please contact our school nurse, Carrie Gregory via phone or email at cgregory@isaacschool.org and/or our Principal and COVID Liaison, Denise Dunning via phone or email at ddunning@isaacschool.org. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

The new criteria for being considered a close contact has changed as well as the number of days needing to quarantine. LLHD Director, Stephen Mansfield, provided a helpful scenario sheet to all superintendents in the region yesterday. **Below are the close contact scenarios** for if a person who was exposed to a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 within 6 feet for a cumulative total of 15 minutes within a 24-hour time frame or within 3 feet in the classroom setting.

If you have been boosted OR completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months OR completed the primary series of Johnson & Johnson within the last 2 months:

- Wear a mask around others for 10 days.
- Get tested on day 5 following exposure, if possible.
- Monitor for symptoms for 14 days following last exposure to positive case, if symptoms develop, get a test and stay home.

If you completed primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine over 6 months ago and are not boosted OR completed the primary series of Johnson & Johnson over 2 months ago and are not boosted OR are unvaccinated:

- Contact the school nurse, Carrie Gregory, immediately via phone or email at cgregory@isaacschool.org
- Quarantine at home for 5 days. After that, continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- If you can't quarantine you must wear a mask for 10 days.
- Get tested on day 5 following exposure, if possible.

- Monitor for symptoms for 14 days following last exposure to positive case, if symptoms develop, get a test and stay home.
- Household contacts: if a positive case is *not able to isolate* (private bedroom, private bathroom, avoid common household areas) and there is *ongoing household contact*, the close contacts within the household should quarantine for the entire 5-day isolation period plus 5 days.

If you recently recovered from COVID-19:

- You do not need to quarantine if you have had a positive COVID-19 test result in the past 90 days and have completed your isolation period, as long as you are not experiencing symptoms.
- Monitor for symptoms for 14 days following the exposure.

The guidelines for individuals who have tested positive has also changed. Effective immediately, the CDC, DPH, and LLHD has created the following guidelines which has been distributed to all superintendents in the region. Please note that although these are the new guidelines that have been shared with us, additional changes or adjustments may be implemented by the State Department of Education (SDE) in the upcoming days and weeks ahead. Below are the steps to take **if you have tested positive for COVID-19** by way of a self-administered take home test or a test from any other third party.

Isolate at home for 5 days following your onset of symptoms (or the date of test collection if you have no symptoms).

- Contact the school nurse, Carrie Gregory, immediately via phone or email at cgregory@isaacschool.org
- The day you start symptoms or test and have no symptoms is considered day 0.
- After 5 days, if you have no symptoms or your symptoms are resolving, you can leave isolation.
- If you have a fever, continue to stay home until your fever resolves.
- Continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days.
- The CDC does not recommend a negative test result to return to school/work/recreational/social activities, as you may continue to test positive up to 90 days following the initial positive test.

Identify your close contacts.

- A close contact is anyone within 6 feet for 15 minutes or more (cumulatively over a 24-hour period) during infectious window, which begins 48 hours prior to the onset of symptoms, or date of test collection if asymptomatic.
- A contact-of-a-contact is not a contact.

We understand that this is a lot of information to receive in one letter during the winter break, however, we feel it is important that our school community is aware of the new policies in place as soon as we received them. In addition, we want to echo the push by the CDC, DPH, and LLHD to remain vaccinated through initial vaccinations and boosters as they become available. In an effort to support the fight against COVID-19, we are currently working on a relationship with the Connecticut Department of Public Health to sponsor additional vaccination clinics after school hours at ISAAC in the upcoming weeks ahead. We thank you in advance for your continued support in helping to keep all who work, learn, and grow at ISAAC safe.

Wishing you and your family a healthy and happy New Year!

Sincerely,



Dr. Nicholas J. Spera
Executive Director