



Dr. Nicholas J. Spera, Executive Director

Denise M. Dunning, Principal & Director of Special Education

Tanya N. Collins, Associate Principal & Director of Human Resources

William Linski, Director of Instruction, Programming & Athletics

January 2, 2022

Dear ISAAC Family,

As we prepare for a safe return to school tomorrow, we wanted to update you regarding the preparation for tomorrow and to provide clarification of our practices versus other sending districts' practices which may have changed in the last few days.

Late on New Year's Eve we received additional guidance from the CT Department of Public Health (DPH) regarding optional adjustments to close contact tracing protocols. The optional guidance stated the following:

"DPH recommends that schools begin to refocus the activities of health staff away from the investigation of relatively low risk in-school exposures and toward the identification, early isolation, and clinical management of students and staff with active symptoms that could be related to COVID-19... the position of the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) is that routine contact tracing of individual exposures that occur inside schools or during school-organized and supervised activities can be discontinued...without posing a significant increased risk of negative impact on in-school transmission of COVID-19 or access to in-person learning."

Although DPH has allowed for school districts the option to discontinue contact tracing protocols, **ISAAC will continue to contact trace all positive cases and will continue to contact families and staff members regardless of their vaccination status.** Our district medical adviser and I strongly believe that now is not the time to discontinue the practice of contact tracing. Based on the high percentage of COVID-19 infections being reported in the state and nation, we want to continue to follow our strict mitigation strategies moving forward into the new year. Furthermore, our administrative team is committed to ensuring a safe learning environment for all who work, learn, and grow at ISAAC. Families can continue to expect transparent communication to the extent that the law allows regarding their student's exposure to positive cases. Moreover, we will continue to provide our school community with updates regarding positive cases, however, due to ISAAC being such a small community, we will continue the practice of not sharing specific information out of respect for the privacy of those who have tested positive.

As stated in my December 29, 2021 email, ISAAC will return back to its normal school schedule beginning on Monday, January 3, 2022. Moreover, remote learning will not be an option for families unless a student is required to be isolated due to a confirmed COVID-19 infection or was identified as a close contact. All of the mitigation strategies that have been in place will remain as listed in the aforementioned email including the daily student assessment of symptoms, exposure, and social emotional standing. Our staff is committed to respond to any and all issues related to the pandemic and the safety of our school.

As a reminder, it is imperative that if any student or staff member is not feeling well and are exhibiting any symptoms, that they remain at home. 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 at cgregory@isaacschool.org and/or our COVID Liaison, Denise Dunning at ddunning@isaacschool.org. Please carefully evaluate your child's condition prior to sending them back to school tomorrow, January 3, 2022. Together, we can support a safe learning and working environment for all.

Lastly, today we offered at home COVID-19 testing kits and N95 masks to all of our staff members in an effort to ensure that our adults are in good health to provide effective instruction and care for all of students. I am happy to report that a vast majority of our staff took advantage of this opportunity and are ready to resume a safe, in-person learning day tomorrow.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N. Spera', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr. Nicholas J. Spera
Executive Director

We Believe that All Students Can Succeed with Hard Work and Grit