



Dr. Nicholas J. Spera, *Executive Director*
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April 26, 2022

Dear ISAAC Family,

The Connecticut Department of Public Health has advised school administrators throughout the state that COVID-19 transmission rates have been steadily increasing and that we should expect to see more cases of COVID-19 affecting students and staff in our schools in the coming weeks due to recent holiday gatherings and travel associated with school break weeks. At ISAAC, seven community members reported that they were positive COVID-19 prior to the return to school after April vacation.

In addition to the measures ISAAC already has in place to help reduce COVID-19 risks (e.g., increased ventilation, standard cleaning protocols), our Safe Return to School Committee met today and decided it would be best to reinstate some of the mitigation strategies that were in place during the height of the pandemic given this time of increased community transmission. Further mitigation strategies (e.g., mask wearing) may occur if rates increase further. The following mandates will remain in place for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year:

- Increased student spacing in all classrooms to the greatest extent possible including our music classes;
- No visitors in the school building during school hours except for emergency reasons;
- Increase emphasis on hand washing in bathrooms and hand sanitation when entering classrooms;
- Daily morning check-in on temperature, symptoms, and wellness of all students.

Along with these mitigation mandates, we are asking our staff, students, and families to help us reduce the potential COVID-19 risks in our schools even further for the remainder of the school year.

- **Staying home if you feel unwell** and especially if you are experiencing any symptoms that could be caused by COVID-19, including:
 - Fever or chills
 - Cough
 - Difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue/tiredness
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea
- **Getting vaccinated** for COVID-19 if you have not done so already and getting a booster vaccine dose if you are eligible. **Tomorrow, April 27th from 4 pm to 7 pm in ISAAC Gymnasium will be a vaccination clinic for all ages 5 and up and doses (1st, 2nd, and boosters) from all companies (Pfizer, Moderna, & Johnson & Johnson)**
- **Testing for COVID-19** either using an at-home test kit or at a pharmacy or other testing site if you:
 - feel unwell or have any symptoms that could be associated with COVID-19; or
 - have had an exposure to someone suspected of having COVID-19; or
 - have recently traveled out of state using public transportation (e.g., air, train, bus); or
 - have attended any large group events (e.g., concerts, weddings or similar events, etc.)
- **Contacting the school nurse, Carrie Gregory at cgregory@isaacschool.org and following isolation guidance** if you test positive for COVID-19, including remaining away from school activities for at least 5 days and wearing a mask when returning for an additional 5 days.
- **Following quarantine guidance** as appropriate for your vaccination status if you have a close contact with someone with COVID-19 either inside or outside of your household.
- **Wear a mask** when you are around other people especially if:
 - you are not feeling well;
 - are advised to do so based on isolation or quarantine recommendations;
 - you are at-risk for severe COVID-19 complications; or
 - you feel more comfortable wearing a mask at this time.

We thank you in advance for your continued partnership in providing a safe learning and working environment for all at ISAAC.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nicholas J. Spera
Executive Director