



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

May 20, 2022

Dear ISAAC Family,

The purpose of this letter is to notify you about the upcoming mask mandate that will take place beginning this coming Monday, May 23, 2022 based on the change in classification level from the CDC and from the recommendations from our district medical advisor, Dr. Vijay Sikand, and the Ledge Light Health District (LLHD) Director, Stephen Mansfield.

As most of you are aware, today the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) classified New London County as **HIGH** according to the new tool called *COVID Community Levels*. This afternoon, we were notified by Ledge Light Health District of this change in classification with the following recommendations:

- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines
- Get tested if you have symptoms
- Wear a mask if you have symptoms, test positive, or were exposed to a positive case
- **Wear a mask indoors in public, and on public transportation**
- If you are at higher risk of severe illness consider taking additional precautions

As stated in the April 26, 2022 letter regarding the most recent changes in mitigation strategies at ISAAC, it was communicated that: *further mitigation strategies (e.g., mask wearing) may occur if rates increase further*. With this change in classification from the CDC and from the recommendation from the aforementioned health professionals, **ISAAC will mandate mask wearing for all students**. In addition, all ISAAC teachers and staff must wear a mask when in the presence of students during the school day and/or afterschool activities. Moreover, the mask mandate is for all staff and students **regardless of vaccination status**.

Please know that not all school districts in the region may decide to move in this direction. Effective on Monday, February 28, 2022, the Governor allowed for local school districts to determine if a mask mandate should remain in place. Based on the above-mentioned guidance and status, our school stakeholders have decided to remain consistent in our decision-making process by making this change. Throughout the pandemic, we have always followed the guidance from the CDC, our medical advisor, and Ledge Light Health District. If the classification level moves from HIGH to MEDIUM in the remaining 14 days of school, we will make the corresponding change. As with any decision, we understand there will be mixed opinions and emotions that come with this plan. Please know that the health and safety of our students and staff will always remain to be paramount.

One thing that does not change is the shared responsibility with all stakeholders regarding the spread of illness when symptoms exist. **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**. Those in need of a COVID-19 test can receive one from the school upon request. We also ask that anyone 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. Furthermore, upon arrival to school, masks will be available for those students without one.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation and support as we conclude the final 14 days remaining in the school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'N. Spera', is written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Nicholas J. Spera
Executive Director