



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 27, 2022

Dear ISAAC Family,

The purpose of this letter is to notify you about the change in the mask mandate that will take place immediately 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). From now until further notice, masks are optional for all staff and students. We are still keeping all other mitigation strategies as previously reported.

As most of you are aware, today the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) classified New London County as **MEDIUM** 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:

- If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions
- Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines
- Get tested if you have symptoms

As stated in my previous letter last Friday, it was communicated that: *if the classification level moves from HIGH to MEDIUM in the remaining 14 days of school, we will make the corresponding change*. In that same light, if the CDC changes the classification before the end of the school year and/or Ledge Light Health District and our district medical advisor recommends masks based on increased rates, ISAAC will reinstitute mandatory masks wearing.

As a reminder, 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 MEDIUM to HIGH in the remaining 9 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 9 days remaining in the school year.

Sincerely,

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

Dr. Nicholas J. Spera
Executive Director