Updated Protocols - April 25, 2022

In light of recent changes in guidance and regulations regarding mandated mask wearing, and in partnership with the Cathedral, outdoor and indoor masking became optional for Cathedral students and most adults on the Close on March 7, 2022.

We know that some students, faculty, and staff will continue to wear a mask for a variety of reasons; they are certainly welcome and encouraged to make the right choice for their level of comfort.

Depending on circumstances, the School can and may require an individual to wear a mask. This is particularly relevant for community members exposed to COVID-19, ending isolation, or exhibiting symptoms. All close contacts of positive individuals will be required to remain masked for 10 days following the last date of close contact. All students should continue to keep a mask in their personal belongings for the times when masking may be required during the school day.

In addition to the masking policies stated above please note the following protocol changes:

- The last day of daily AUXS screening was Friday, March 4. It remains particularly important that individuals maintain symptom awareness and stay home if sick. Families must continue to check in with Nurse Boyarsky when students are symptomatic.

- The School is excited to invite a gradually increasing number of guests to Lower School Assemblies and certain Evensongs—provided they remain masked and are fully up-to-date on their COVID-19 vaccinations. Lower School Assembly will continue to be recorded and shared with families via the Peacock Post. Please pay close attention to guidance surrounding guest capacity that will be communicated by email or via the Peacock Post moving forward.

- PCR testing will be optional after Tuesday, April 26. Test kits will be sent home on Monday, and may be returned on Tuesday for PCR testing with Sovereign Labs. The school nurse will no longer perform PCR tests on individuals who forgot, spilled, or misplaced their test kits. Rapid tests will continue to be made available, as supplies allow, to known close contacts, and we may require rapid and/or PCR testing for people who are symptomatic or exposed.

We do not know where the course of the virus will take us next, and as such, all of the modified protocol noted above is conditional based on local transmission rates and CDC/state/city guidance. We are prepared to reinstate an indoor and/or outdoor mask mandate or other mitigation measures if community health is at heightened risk.

**When to alert the school nurse**

Please email the school nurse when employees, students, or household contacts test positive for COVID-19; when employees/students develop any symptoms of COVID-19; and when
employees/students are exposed to COVID-19 outside of school. The nurse will help determine any isolation and quarantine protocols, including masking and testing. Please do not attend school/send your student to school with any COVID-19 symptoms without checking in with the nurse. Individuals with symptoms will have to produce two negative rapid tests 24 hours apart or a negative PCR test in order to return, and should remain masked while indoors, unless eating or drinking, until symptoms fully resolve.

**Protocols for exposure in school**
Individuals who are exposed in school will receive an email (or their parents will receive an email) with details including when the exposure occurred; when to rapid test; how long to monitor for symptoms; and how long to remain masked indoors. Individuals who are exposed in school will be sent home with a box of two rapid antigen tests, as supplies allow. They should be tested as soon as possible, and 5 days after the exposure, or sooner if symptoms occur. They will be required to mask indoors at all times, unless eating or drinking, for 10 days after exposure.

**Protocols for exposure outside of school**
Please email the school nurse if exposed outside of school to determine next steps. You will need to rapid test as soon as possible and 5 days after the exposure, and mask indoors for 10 days.

**Protocols for household close contact**
If someone in your home tests positive for COVID-19, they will need to strictly physically isolate. They should sleep in a separate bedroom, use a separate bathroom when possible, and place all dishes directly into a dishwasher when possible. If strict physical isolation is not possible, other household members may need to quarantine at home during this period. Individuals with household close contacts need to remain masked and test 3 times a week before school. Please contact the school nurse to discuss specific details and to report the close contact.

**Protocols for isolation**
Individuals who test positive should let the school nurse know right away, to determine the isolation period and back-to-school protocols. Please let the nurse know when the test was conducted; and, if symptoms exist, when they began. The infected person should isolate themselves away from others as much as possible. If the infected person is high risk, reach out to their healthcare provider right away to determine whether antiviral treatments are right for them.