

Beginning with Children

EDUCATION NETWORK

March 4, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian –

New York City's "Stay Safe, Stay Open" plan has allowed schools to stay open and remain among the safest places for young people to be during the COVID-19 pandemic. Schools worked to reduce transmission rates by consistently implementing strong COVID-19 mitigation protocols. **As a result, effective Monday, March 7, 2022, our schools will implement changes to current COVID-19 health and safety policies in accordance with the latest state and city guidance.**

Face Covering Policy Updates

Face coverings will be optional on school grounds for students in kindergarten through grade 12 beginning Monday, March 7. To maintain the safety of our staff and students, we will continue to practice strict COVID-19 protocols, including increased ventilation, a daily health screening, surveillance testing and test kit distribution. Wearing a face covering will become optional indoors, outside, and on school buses.

Anyone who chooses to wear a mask may continue to do so. Staff and students may request a mask from the school if they need one. Mask shaming, bullying, or harassment of any student or staff member because of their decision to continue wearing or to not wear a mask will not be tolerated. There are many reasons a student or staff member may or may not wear a mask, including medical reasons, protecting family members, or a desire for increased protection.

Masks continue to be **required**:

- For any staff member or student in grades Kindergarten or higher returning on Day 6 following a positive COVID-19 diagnosis and a 5-day isolation period.
- For any staff member or student on school property through Day 10 after having COVID-19 symptoms without taking a COVID test.

Masks are **strongly recommended**:

- For any staff member or student who knows they have been exposed to COVID-19 within the previous 10 days (*in the same room for 15 minutes or longer with a person who tested positive for COVID-19*).
- In medical rooms and nurses' offices, as well as in School Based Health Centers. Nurses will have masks on hand for anyone who may need one.

Vaccination

As a reminder, vaccination is the best tool we have to fight COVID-19 and to keep our schools safe for all our students. Children ages 5 and older are eligible to be vaccinated against COVID-19. If your child is eligible but not yet vaccinated against COVID-19, you can make an appointment for vaccination at www.vaccinefinder.nyc.gov or call 311 to find a vaccine site near you. The vaccine is free for all New Yorkers, regardless of immigration or insurance status. We thank you for your continued partnership.

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Student Vaccine Requirements

High-risk extracurricular activities will still require participants to be fully vaccinated. Examples include football, volleyball, basketball, wrestling, lacrosse (boys), stunt, and rugby. High-risk extra-curricular activities include chorus, musical theater, dance/dance team, band/orchestra, marching band, and cheerleading/step teams/flag team.

Social Distancing

There are no requirements for social distancing in public spaces, including classrooms, cafeterias and auditoriums.

Visitor Policy

Visitors are still required to show proof of vaccination and complete the daily Ruvna health screening before entering the school building.

Please save this link to stay updated on New York City's COVID-19 policies and alerts:

NYC Health COVID-19 resource page: <http://nyc.gov/health/coronavirus>.

Sincerely,

Mike Ferrara and Yvette Ferrara
Co-Principals, *Beginning with Children Charter School 2 Lower School*

Edwin Santiago
Principal, *Beginning with Children Charter School 2 Middle School*