



August 2, 2021

Dear Waverly Families,

We continue to monitor closely the new regulations and recommendations that the CDC, Los Angeles County, and Pasadena Health Departments are sharing about the COVID-19 plans for return to school in September. Note that these are changing weekly, and sometimes daily. Below are guidelines and requirements that Waverly will be adhering to at the start of school. Please do be aware that some of Waverly's guidelines are mandated and some are recommendations that we are choosing to implement, at least to begin the year, as a precautionary measure. All regulations and recommendations will continue to be reviewed in light of new information about the local area and the Waverly community. Any update will be communicated with you in a timely manner.

Masks

Indoors - As per LA County regulations, masks are mandated to be worn by all members of the community, including students, parents, guardians, and employees, while inside a school building. This applies to vaccinated and unvaccinated people.

Exceptions:

- A mask is not required indoors when the individual is the only person in the room or contiguous work space.
- A mask is not required when there is a documented medical accommodation. Any such individual requiring such an accommodation must notify the Head in advance. Employees who are exempt from wearing masks indoors must be tested at least twice per week as required by the LA County Health Officer Order.

Outdoors - For our Elementary and Middle/High School outdoor spaces, we will begin the school year by requiring masks to be worn by all members of the community, including students, parents, guardians, and employees, with a few exceptions listed below. Although the CDC and LA County do not mandate this, they highly recommend wearing masks in crowded outdoor spaces, and many times our spaces are crowded when multiple students and faculty/staff are utilizing the space.

Exceptions:

- A teacher may permit students to remove masks outdoors when spaces are not crowded and greater physical distance can be assured.
- Masks are not required for outdoor eating.

- Masks are optional, but not required, at the Farm.

Vaccination

We continue to strongly encourage all those 12 years and older to be vaccinated, but we do not require this for students, parents, guardians, or employees.

We ask that all families of students 12 years and older, and all employees, voluntarily share proof of vaccination before the start of the school year. This information will be kept confidential, and will only be used to assist us in the event that we must direct individuals to self-quarantine due to exposure to COVID-19. Further information will be provided before the start of the school year. Should families and employees elect not to share evidence of vaccination at this time, please be advised that this information may be requested later in the event of contact tracing.

Testing

At present, we are not requiring asymptomatic screening testing as a condition for return to campus in the fall.

Although California Department of Public Health guidelines do not require any particular frequency or procedure for asymptomatic testing, we are exploring the possibility of providing weekly COVID-19 screening testing on campus as had been done in the spring of last school year. Ideally, such testing would be covered by each individual's health insurance and thus come at no out-of-pocket cost. In the event that we are not able to provide affordable on-campus testing, we will provide families with reliable recommendations for testing options. Should we engage in weekly testing, we are still considering for whom it will be required, and we stay attuned to the latest updates from LA County and Pasadena regulations. As we confirm plans, we will update you with further details.

Symptoms Checking

Sick individuals are required to stay at home. We will post notices at our entrances directing anyone with symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19 exposure to return home. Visitors will be asked to positively affirm that they are symptom-free before entering the building. Prior to the beginning of the school year, all employees and families will be required to attest that they will stay at home if they have symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19 exposure. Any individual who demonstrates such symptoms during the course of the day will be isolated and sent home immediately.

Communication and Contact Tracing

In the event of a positive COVID-19 case for an employee or student, we will do the following:

- We will notify the community of the instance of a positive case and share the division level (e.g., Elementary, Middle, etc.) while maintaining confidentiality of the individual affected.
- We will investigate which individuals were in close contact with the affected person. Close contact continues to be defined by the following:
 - Within six feet, AND

- 15 or more minutes over a 24 hour period
 - Regardless of indoors or outdoors, masked or unmasked
- We will notify those individuals who were close contacts of the potential for exposure.
 - Those close contacts who are vaccinated are not required to self-quarantine, but it is strongly recommended that such individuals be tested after exposure.
 - Those close contacts who are unvaccinated will be required to self-quarantine and follow CDC guidelines for testing and isolation prior to return to campus
- In the event that one or more grades need to temporarily shift to remote learning for a period of quarantining, we will require a day's preparation to transition to remote learning. More details will be provided depending on the timing and the length of the quarantine.

Indoor Air Quality

We have installed MERV-13 filters and iWave air purifiers in all of our HVAC units in order to help eliminate bacteria, viruses, mold, and allergens. The air filtration system will be running throughout the building at all times.

The majority of our classrooms have windows that can be opened, and teachers will be able to open windows to increase outside air flow. For the few classrooms that don't have windows that open, we will be providing portable air cleaners to help reduce airborne contaminants.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

As per CDC and Los Angeles County reopening guidance, we will clean and disinfect our spaces at least one time daily. Our excellent cleaning crew adheres to all the health recommendations and will continue to provide deep cleaning each evening after the buildings are vacated. We will also have disinfecting wipes available in all buildings for highly used spaces so that more frequent cleaning can take place as needed. For example, in areas where students are eating, we will ensure that tables are wiped down after each group of students are finished and before the next group arrives.

Hand Cleanliness

We will be implementing measures to ensure that students, faculty and staff are offered multiple opportunities throughout the day to wash their hands. We will be modeling this for students at the appropriate ages so that it becomes part of their regular routine throughout the day. We also have hand sanitizers in multiple places around each campus.

Visitors and School Events

We will begin the year with visitors allowed to be on campus when invited for specific school events. For example, parents and family members will be able to come on campus for the weekly coffee meetings mentioned in John's letter. In order to minimize possible exposure, we strongly discourage visiting campus without invitation. All visitors will need to follow masking procedures listed above.

We will be updating the community about school events (i.e. All-School Meeting, First Friday) in the coming weeks.

Field Trips and Overnight Trips

It is our goal to be able to host field trips for students, including overnight trips. We will confirm with outside organizations their compliance with state, county, and city requirements. Details about each trip will be shared with families in advance of said trip.

Meals

As per LA County recommendations, we will be encouraging all grades to have students eat meals and snacks outside. Teachers will determine when conditions are suitable to do so, based upon weather and use of space. Regardless as to whether meals are held indoors or outdoors, teachers will seek to maximize physical space between students.

We will be able to offer our school lunch service provided by Choicelunch. Please look for information about signing up in the near future.

Take care,

Jason Gottlieb,
School COVID-19 Compliance Officer
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