

October 21, 2020

Dear Friends:

I write on this sunny morning to advise you of two important matters regarding our continued commitment to community health. As noted in our *School Directory/Handbook*, “*all members of our community have a shared responsibility to prevent the spread of illness.*” – most particularly with continued advent of the coronavirus. Below please find our recently developed plans for COVID-19 testing and a reminder about out-of-state travel.

## **TESTING**

After consultation with our medical team and with our peer schools, Primary Day will institute a COVID-19 testing program for all students, faculty and staff beginning November 1, 2020. Consistent with CDC guidelines, our testing requirements for the remainder of the calendar year will include the following:

Week of 11/1-11/7 – All students must be tested with results to Mrs. Hendrickson, our school nurse, by noon, Saturday, 11/7/2020. Primary Day has arranged for preferred testing hours for PDS families at **PMPediatrics: Gaithersburg and Germantown.** Details about this option will be available very soon. The test administered will be a non-rapid, lower nasal PCR test and with results available within 72 hours. We feel that this is an appropriate time for initial testing, as this week represents approximately three weeks since 89% of our students and 85% of our staff have been working on campus. Although testing is optional for those students scheduled as ‘remote learners’, no students will be allowed on campus after 11/8/20 unless the School is provided with a current negative test result/report, within the required window. Of course, families may obtain testing at a site of their choice, but it must be a *non-rapid PCR test*.

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Week of 11/29-12/5 – All students must be tested with results to Mrs. Hendrickson by noon, Saturday, 12/5/2020. Primary Day has again arranged for preferred testing hours for PDS families at **PMPediatrics: Gaithersburg and Germantown.** Details about this option will be available very soon. The test administered will be a non-rapid, lower nasal PCR test and with results available within 72 hours. Tests must be done during this period as it represents a time when many families may have gathered with others to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. Testing is optional for those students scheduled as ‘remote learners’, but no students will be allowed on campus after 12/6/20 unless the School is provided with a current negative test result/report, within the required window. Of course, families may obtain testing at a site of their choice, but it must be a *non-rapid PCR test*.

**During the week following the Thanksgiving recess, all classes will revert to our distance learning program for one week with a return to on-campus learning on Monday, 12/7/20.**

Week of 1/3/21-1/9/21. – All students must be tested with results to Mrs. Hendrickson by noon, Saturday, 1/9/2021. Primary Day has again arranged for preferred testing hours for PDS families at **PMPediatrics:Gaithersburg and Germantown** and details about this option will be available very soon. The test administered will be a non-rapid, lower nasal PCR test and with results available within 72 hours. Using the same premise as above, given the extended break, this testing period has been identified as a potentially high risk week. Testing remains optional for those students scheduled as ‘remote learners’, but no students will be allowed on campus after 1/10/21 unless the School is provided with a current negative test result/report, within the required window. Of course, families may obtain testing at a site of their choice, but it must be a *non-rapid PCR test*.

Testing is optional for those students learning remotely, but please understand that no students will be allowed on campus after 1/10/21 unless they provide the School with a current negative test result/report, within the required window. Of course, families may obtain testing at a site of their choice, but it must be a non-rapid PCR test.

**During the first week following the winter recess, we will revert to our distance learning program for one week with a return to on-campus learning on 1/11/21.**

Thank you, in advance, for understanding that our testing window weeks should not be considered extended vacations. Students will be expected to be ‘in class’ virtually during these days and will be considered ‘absent unexcused’ if they do not attend classes. Finally, although additional testing windows may be identified in the spring semester, those dates have yet to be determined.

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## **TRAVEL**

With the holidays approaching, I want to take a moment to remind everyone of our requirements (which mirror Maryland’s guidelines and are posted on our website at *Welcome Home*) relative to out-of-state travel. It is expected that all families will adhere to these guidelines regarding travel and allow sufficient time upon their return to be tested and/or quarantined as necessary so as not to impact the collective safety of our school community.

*“Any Marylander returning from out-of-state should either get tested for COVID-19 promptly upon arrival in Maryland or within 72 hours before travel to Maryland. A list of test sites can be found here:*  
<https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/pages/symptoms-testing>.

*Any Marylander who travels to a state with a COVID-19 test positivity rate above 10% should get tested and self-quarantine at home until the test result is received. The District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Virginia are exempt from this recommendation.*

A list of state COVID-19 test positivity rates can be found here:” <https://www.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/index.html#testing>.

Best always, Scott