



Reopening Town Hall Questions and Responses

August 26, 2021

Visiting Campus

Question: Will WDS require parents on campus grounds to show proof of COVID-19 vaccination or on site testing?

- **Answer:** At this time, we ask that anyone coming onto campus for meetings or events provide proof of completed vaccination status or a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours of the visit. WDS does not offer on site testing for parents. All campus visitors are required to be masked at all times on campus and follow all other WDS COVID protocols regardless of vaccination status. Any EC parents assisting with their child's drop-off will need to complete an additional daily questionnaire before coming on campus and are not allowed to enter the classroom.

Space

Question: Where are the tents this year? Last year we were dependent on the tents to have full time school but this year they are not in the Reopening Plan at all. Has it been considered to supply them for the grades that have students still not eligible for the vaccine as an added safety feature? At least for a portion of the day and lunch?

- **Answer:** Given our track record last spring and current CDC guidelines, WDS is confident that the use of masks, weekly testing and our other COVID-19 protocols will provide a safe learning environment. WDS will continue to utilize our outdoor learning spaces and our beautiful campus as much as possible.

Question: What are the details about the new temporary structure? How will it be used? What classes will be held there? How long are we planning to have it?

- **Answer:** The new structure is a four season temporary classroom, which will house our nurse as well as our preschool classroom. The 4STC will be utilized for the duration of this academic year.

Community Compact

Question: is the expectation that siblings/all household members will abide by the guidelines in the community compact? For example, siblings over 2 at other schools/public places should be masked indoors? Would indoor dining at restaurants also then be discouraged/prohibited?

- **Answer:** The current CDC guidelines strongly recommend all people wear masks when indoors. Our community compact asks that the WDS community including families behave in a responsible manner in order to safeguard our entire community. This will ultimately limit disruptions to our students' ability to remain on campus full time.

Masks

Question: There are a lot of variables to this but could you talk us through the current anticipated goals/plans for when masks may not be required at school - for example, once all students are eligible for the vaccine and if rates are below a certain level, might masks no longer be required? Or should we prepare for masks to likely be a part of the foreseeable future?

- **Answer:** We believe that we should prepare for masking protocols to stay in place for the foreseeable future. Our goal would be to phase out the use of masks in outdoor settings based on the vaccination status of our community and local COVID-19 rates. Our ultimate goal is to keep our students in school full time as much as possible therefore we may be more cautious in lifting masking requirements than the surrounding community.

Testing

Question: How often will children be tested on-site at the school?

- **Answer:** For the initial start of the school year our entire WDS campus including faculty, staff and students will be tested on a weekly basis. We will reevaluate the necessity of this testing protocol quarterly and update our community to any changes.

Question: Will we be quarantining after breaks? If so, will there be a way to shorten these with testing?

- **Answer:** At this time we will not be requiring quarantine after breaks however we will be requiring everyone to provide a negative PCR test for any vacation longer than 7 days.

Question: Why can't we have the saliva test for the students Sept 2-5 - isn't that a PCR test? Why can't the school offer it during that time and the parents pay the cost? It is so hard to coordinate a PCR test and get it back before the start of school. Those are pre-holiday times difficult to travel and getting the kids ready for school and millions of kids may be looking to get the same thing done.

- **Answer:** All faculty and staff are busy preparing campus for the return of students therefore we are unable to offer on campus drive thru testing. If you are having trouble with scheduling a PCR test please contact the COVID Team to discuss options.

Vaccination

Question: Will WDS require all staff to be fully vaccinated?

- **Answer:** We have an open line of communication with other local schools who are in the same position as we are and at this time we are not mandating vaccines for our teachers. We are currently looking at and preparing for the potential impact of a vaccine mandate on our staff and community, with a particular focus on preventing disruption to our academic program.