



## COVID-19 Policies for 2022/2023

SMCA is committed to providing a safe school environment as well as one that is the least restrictive possible. This past 2021/2022 school year we enjoyed full in-person instruction with many required protocols in place. Now that the COVID landscape has improved, we are prepared to open in a manner that is once again safe and appropriate for the current circumstances. As was true last year, these policies are subject to change depending on future developments.

### **Mask Policy**

While there are varying opinions on this subject, SMCA will be encouraging each family to determine whether or not their child(ren) wears a mask at school. We support and respect anyone who wishes to do so. At the same time, mask-wearing will be optional. We will expect all members of the SMCA community to respect different perspectives on mask-wearing and to be kind to others at all times.

### **COVID-19 Vaccination**

So far, three different vaccines have been authorized by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). While our current government administration is recommending that citizens receive one these vaccines, SMCA will not be requiring students, faculty, or staff to be COVID-19 vaccinated to be on campus. Further, we will not ask about anyone's COVID-19 vaccination status.

### **Cleaning and Sanitizing Policy**

SMCA is committed to maintaining a healthy environment that mitigates the spread of all illnesses, including COVID-19. We will maintain the same cleaning and sanitizing protocols we put into place during the 2020-2021 school year. Teachers will reinforce common-sense sanitation practices, including regular handwashing to prevent COVID and all other illnesses. Additionally, hand sanitizer will remain in all classrooms and teachers and staff will reinforce regular use.

### **Symptom-Checking**

A key to our success in minimizing illness last year was our community's diligence in staying home at the first sign of symptoms. We will expect all families to maintain the same diligence in monitoring for symptoms and stay home until fever-free for twenty-four hours.

### **Positive COVID Tests**

As with last year, when someone tests positive, he/she will be required to stay home for an adequate period of time according to Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines. Currently that period of time is ten days from the day that symptoms first appear. We will continue to monitor CDC guidelines and adjust accordingly.

As well, we will continue the policy of having you quarantine your child if he/she has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. A student who has been exposed to someone who has tested positive must quarantine for fourteen days according to CDC guidelines. The CDC also states that a person can shorten his/her quarantine if he/she tests negative (test must occur on day five or later). Moreover, the CDC states that a fully-vaccinated person who has been exposed to someone with COVID-19 does NOT need to quarantine. More information will be forthcoming.