

March 10, 2022

To Our Green Chimneys Families,

I am writing to update families on our new masking guidance: **Masks will be optional for all students and staff at Green Chimneys beginning Monday, March 14, 2022.**

WHAT IS NEW?

- Wearing a mask is now optional at Green Chimneys locations (but please see exceptions below.) We ask for everyone's respect for individuals who choose to continue wearing masks. We are a "mask positive" environment; those who wear masks, whether by choice, expectation, or requirement, will not be stigmatized, bullied, or made to feel uncomfortable, and likewise, those for whom masks have not been required or recommended are also not stigmatized, bullied, or made to feel uncomfortable. Please reinforce this message to your child.
- Masking is no longer required on school buses or vans. Students who are required to wear masks in school, should also wear masks on school transport (please see exceptions below.)
- We will no longer be screening students daily UNLESS there is a known exposure.

WHAT REMAINS IN PLACE

- Staff and students are expected to stay at home when ill or symptomatic.
- Individuals are excluded from school or work until at least 24 hours after fever breaks without fever-reducing medicine (such as Tylenol, or ibuprofen), and a SARS-CoV-2 test is negative. In this situation, this can be accomplished with either a PCR or antigen test.

WHEN IS A MASK REQUIRED OR RECOMMENDED?

- **If your child tests positive for COVID-19**
 - Students **MUST** follow isolation protocol for 10 days.
 - Starting Day 0 (which is either onset of symptoms or a positive test if asymptomatic), students must isolate for the first 5 days.
 - During days 6-10, students may return from isolation but are **REQUIRED** to mask fully.
- For individuals who have a known exposure:
 - Masking, regardless of vaccination status, is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** for 10 days after known exposure.
 - Testing on Day 5 after exposure is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED**. Green Chimneys will supply testing for students (with consent) and residents for as long as supplies remain.
 - Green Chimneys will notify affected families, staff, and teachers of exposure to an individual who reports a new COVID-19 infection.
 - Green Chimneys will screen students with known exposure.
- Whenever students are expected or required to wear masks, masks may be removed when eating, drinking, singing, going outside, or playing a wind instrument. When masks are removed for these purposes, physical distancing of 6 feet or more should be maintained to the extent possible.

We continue to work with our department of health for the most up-to-date guidelines. We appreciate everyone's continued flexibility and adherence to our safety measures.

Thank you and stay well,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E Placke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "E" and a long, sweeping underline.

Ed Placke, Ed.D.
Executive Director