RE: COVID -19 UPDATED POLICY :

March 1, 2022

Dear Parents,

As we enter our third year of the pandemic, I understand many of our students, staff, and visitors have experienced stress and fatigue with all the ever-changing rules and regulations. Throughout it all, we have worked together as a tight-knit community. We have cared for and taken care of each other and for that, I am forever grateful. The Governor in conjunction with the New Jersey Department of Health has provided new guidance for school and Early Childcare Education programs as we enter this phase of the pandemic. We are currently in midst of our lowest quarantine numbers since the onset of the pandemic as we only have one active case in the district. This data in conjunction with our community's high vaccination rate, and your commitment to each other has allowed us to make the following changes based on our newly received recommendations. These changes will go into effect on March 7, 2022.

Positive Cases

Students and staff who test positive for Covid19 may return to the center on day 6 after five days of isolation. They must stay home for at least five full days after the onset of symptoms or if asymptomatic after the positive test (day of symptoms is day 0; if asymptomatic, the day the test was performed is day 0). After returning from quarantine, students (3 -13yrs) and staff who return to school during days 6-10 of quarantine are required to wear a mask.

Close Contacts - Quarantine

Unvaccinated students and staff who are identified as close contacts of an infected person may return to school on day 6. They must stay home for at least five full days and can return if not exhibiting Covid-19 compatible symptoms (day of exposure is day 0).

Masks

On February 7th, Governor Murphy announced that the universal school and Early Childcare Education programs' mask mandate will be lifted on March 7th as this marks the expiration of the executive order. This announcement allows districts and centers to choose whether to be mask optional or continue the mask mandate. In consultation with our local and county health department and our municipality, **TSW will implement a mask optional approach for staff and students.** Visitors touring or entering classrooms must continue to wear a mask when entering the center. While masks will become optional, we still recommend their use. Further, there are circumstances when masks are still required. **These mask-mandatory situations are listed below:**

- After returning from isolation or quarantine due to a positive Covid-19 test, students of age and staff who return to the center during days 6-10 of isolation or quarantine.
- When illness occurs in school students of age or staff who become ill with symptoms consistent with Covid19 while in the center will be required to wear a mask until they leave the premises.

Travel Quarantine

If a student or staff member is vaccinated, there will be no quarantine for any travel. For those traveling to/from New Jersey, domestic travel is defined as lasting 24 hours or longer to states or US territories other than those connected to New Jersey, such as Pennsylvania, New York, and Delaware a five-day quarantine will be used. Students and staff can return on day 6 to school if the person is not experiencing any Covid-19 compatible symptoms.