

October 20, 2021

Dear KSDS families,

On August 11th, the school shared its policy with families that it will require all students to receive the COVID-19 vaccine once emergency use authorization (EUA) is granted to Pfizer from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for 5-11 year olds. This communication is intended to provide additional details about the vaccine requirement and instructions for sharing your child's vaccine information with the school. A [policy for those seeking a medical exemption](#) is included at the end of this letter and can also be found on our [website](#). The goal in mandating the vaccine for all of our students is to set us on a path toward normalcy in our school setting, and to greatly reduce immediate risk of infection among our students and staff. All policies in this letter have been approved by the Health and Safety Committee.

Based on the anticipated timeline for approval and recognizing supply chain and distribution issues that may arise, the school will require **all students to both receive their first dose of the two-shot vaccine series and upload proof of this vaccination to the Magnus health portal by 4pm on Friday, December 17th**. If both requirements are not met, your child will be unable to return to campus on January 3rd, 2022. Students aged 12+ who previously received the vaccine but did not yet upload their card to the portal will need to upload by December 17th as well. **All students must receive their second dose and upload proof of full vaccination to the Magnus health portal by 5pm on Monday, January 10th**. Please note, the KSDS vaccine policy does apply to students who previously tested positive for COVID-19 as long as the student has recovered from his or her illness and discontinued their isolation period.

- [Click here for instructions to access the Magnus Health Portal](#) to upload your student's proof of vaccination.
- Your pediatrician's office may be offering the vaccine. Additionally, the Maryland [CovidVax](#) site will be updated with other locations for pediatric vaccine administration.

Having a fully vaccinated school community is a major milestone for KSDS. While we will continue to review our health and safety policies and procedures throughout the school year, our mask policy will remain in effect at least through January 2022. In addition, we will continue to eat outdoors at least through the winter break. Our health and safety policies will be formally revisited in early 2022, once all students are fully vaccinated. A separate communication regarding middle school basketball will be sent by the athletic department in the coming weeks.

Finally, please save **Thursday, November 4th at 7:30pm for a Town Hall webinar** featuring community physicians on the topic of children, COVID-19, and the vaccine. Details will be shared next week and will also be in the TOV.

KSDS families continue to demonstrate their commitment to the safety of our school and to each other. We greatly appreciate the diligence of this supportive community.

B'Shalom,
Rabbi Moshe

Krieger Schechter Day School COVID-19 Medical Exemption Policy

Approved by the Health and Safety Committee 10/10/2021

The CDC considers the following to be the only contraindication to vaccination with COVID-19: “Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a component of the COVID-19 vaccine. Immediate allergic reaction of any severity to a previous dose or known (diagnosed) allergy to a component of the COVID-19 vaccine.”

Therefore, the school will consider a medical exemption according to the following:

- A letter from both the child’s pediatrician AND allergist documenting the supporting medical evidence for the allergy as specified above.
- Details, such as the start date and duration for the allergies, as well as any prior treatment, including diagnostic or laboratory test results must be included.
- The pediatrician must be an M.D. or D.O. licensed to practice in the State of Maryland.
- The letter must be on the letterhead of the medical practice with an original signature.

Please PDF all documents and email them to nurses@ksds.edu.

The deadline to apply for a medical exemption is Friday, November 19, 2021.

Applications will be reviewed, in the strictest of confidence, and follow up from the school will be made in-writing within 15 days.

In the event the school grants a medical exemption from vaccination, the unvaccinated student will be required to observe the following restrictions:

- Remain masked at all times when indoors, including after mask mandates are lifted for vaccinated students.
- Obtain a PCR test weekly every Friday and provide the results to the school prior to return to campus the following Monday morning. Please note that the school does not have access to PCR tests, and it is the responsibility of the parents to obtain PCR testing.
- Quarantine for a minimum of 10 days following exposure to an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19. A negative PCR test is also required to return to school. This test must be obtained after a minimum of 5 days in quarantine.

The Medical Exemption Policy applies solely to the COVID-19 vaccine and not to the flu shot (which is required of all KSDS students by December 5, 2021).