



Dear KSDS families,

We hope you are enjoying the break and of course, staying safe. We look forward to welcoming back vaccinated students on January 3rd. We are writing to share several changes and updates to our health and safety protocols intended to keep our school community **OPEN and as SAFE** as possible during this unprecedented surge of COVID-19 cases.

Please recall the “swiss cheese model” that we have spoken about before. It is the combination of overlapping actions, each of which has some “holes” (imperfections), which work in concert with each other to keep our whole community safe.

Our guiding principles are:

1. that KSDS be a safe place for the vulnerable members of our community
2. that KSDS remains open for in person learning,
3. that we protect the mental and spiritual health of our children,
4. that we demonstrate for our children, and really live, the Jewish values that anchor our school.

Isolation/Quarantine

We are modifying our isolation and quarantine protocols based, in part, on the new CDC guidelines, but with a few modifications which we feel are necessary when dealing with large numbers of children who are understandably not always able to communicate their subtler discomforts.

Positive test: If a KSDS student/staff member **tests positive for COVID-19** they must isolate regardless of vaccination status and stay home for 5 days (reminder: test date is day zero).

Then,

- if they have no symptoms at the time of testing and remain without symptoms for the entire 5 days, they may return to school on day 6 **as long as a rapid antigen test in the school that morning is negative**
- continue to wear a mask around others for 5 additional days (reminder: 3-ply surgical masks and KN95 masks are better than cloth masks).

HOWEVER:

- **IF AT ANY POINT THE STAFF MEMBER/STUDENT HAS SYMPTOMS*** (be it at the time of testing OR in the 5 days afterwards) the “5 day clock” will be reset starting with the day of symptom development being the NEW “DAY 0”. That person may return on the NEW “DAY 6” as long as:

1. they have been without fever for 24 hours without the use of medication and
2. their other symptoms have fully resolved and
3. a rapid antigen test in the school that morning is negative

*Symptoms include runny or stuffy nose, sore throat cough, fever >100.0 F, headache, stomach ache, vomiting, diarrhea, body aches, significant fatigue, loss of taste or smell

Exposures: If a fully vaccinated KSDS student/staff member is **exposed to someone with COVID 19**, they can either 1) quarantine for 5 days and if they remain asymptomatic, return to school and strict masking an additional 5 days, -OR- 2) stay in school strictly masked for 10 days, with a daily negative rapid test in school each morning through Day 5.

Quarantined students will be afforded Zoom access to classroom work in order to help students stay current with their classwork.

Masks

We will be strictly enforcing indoor mask wearing and ensuring that all masks fit properly. Further, we strongly encourage parents to invest in higher quality masks (i.e. KN95's) for their children, particularly in the short-term.

NEW POLICY Symptoms and Rapid Antigen Testing on Campus

Effective January 3rd, any person developing symptoms during the school day will be rapid antigen tested on-campus.

- Our nurses will contact parents prior to the test being administered.
- The Binax Now rapid antigen test, approved by MDH and MSDE will be used on students while other rapid antigen tests may be administered to adults/staff.

As a reminder, please do not send your child to school with **ANY** symptoms. We intend to be super strict with enforcement of our [decision aid](#) current policies and will not permit students with symptoms on campus.

Lunch

We intend to eat outdoors for the foreseeable future with appropriate adjustments to the length of outdoor eating depending on the temperature. Please dress and plan accordingly!

Testing

Our drive-thru testing for this Sunday has over 560 registrants and is completely full. We cannot accept same-day registrations. We are still [seeking volunteers](#) to swab. Please help us ensure short wait times by having your order ID confirmation that was emailed to you by the lab ready to present when you arrive.

Shabbat Shalom and Happy New Year!

Rabbi Moshe

p.s. Daily rapid antigen testing will take place in the nurses suite at 7:45am. A fully vaccinated parent must accompany the student being tested and wait with the student until results are obtained (15-20 minutes).