



KWS COVID-19 Policies and Practices – 2021-2022 (8.22.23, Revised 9.2.21)

Kimberton Waldorf School will continue to follow the guidance of the Chester County Health Department (CCHD) and the CDC and will be guided by the dual priorities of community health and in-person learning. We plan to be on campus every school day, except in the case of individual or group quarantines (see below). We will also continue to practice and encourage layered mitigation strategies: masking, air ventilation, air filters, vaccines, and distancing when appropriate.

In addition to our multi-layered approach to safety, we also endeavor to create a culture of respect, empathy, and kindness. We are a school community that helps each other feel safe, manages stress in healthy ways, and strives for mutual understanding, respectful dialogue, and relationships imbued with meaning and shared purpose.

Wellness Awareness & Community Responsibility

The first (and perhaps most important) step in our approach to safety and wellness is our commitment to only come to school when we are well. Keeping our community safe and healthy means trying our best to not spread the virus on campus. Staff and students should not come to school if they have any symptoms of illness. If a student has covid-related symptoms, they will need a negative test, a doctor's note, and/or a resolution of symptoms before returning to school.

Masks

Masks will be required for everyone indoors. Masks outside are optional.

Breaks will be offered throughout the day, including at rest and mealtimes, and individuals will follow guidelines for physical distance when unmasked indoors.

We ALL must do our part to create a culture of calm consistency and kind cooperation, and do our best to uphold norms without stress or judgment.

Age Considerations - All students and staff will wear masks inside, but our youngest students will continue to be supported and nurtured, as always, in ways that are developmentally appropriate. Teachers will continue to be in tune with students' needs and capabilities, and will exercise realistic mitigation practices surrounding mask wearing.

Medical Considerations - Some individuals may have a medical exemption to not wear a mask. If an individual is not wearing a mask, please assume they have a valid medical exemption. Students or staff who have a medical or mental health condition or a disability that limits

wearing a mask in school must provide medical documentation from a licensed medical provider to Amanda McLoughlin, RN.

Sports, Singing, Wind Instruments – Singing will take place masked, distanced, or outside. Students may remove their masks when playing wind instruments where the instrument would be obstructed by the mask. Sports on our campus will follow the policy of masks optional indoors and outdoors for practices only. Masking for basketball games will be reassessed closer to the start of the season. This is subject to change, and student-athlete families will receive relevant updates from Anwar. However, norms change with sports, in relation to what other schools are doing, we will prioritize team unity and equality; we will try to avoid implementing any policy that will create divisions or pressure within a team or group. In addition, masks are optional for indoor Physical Education/Games classes where students can maintain physical distancing of at least 6 feet.

Vaccines

Vaccines are an important component of community health in relation to COVID-19. There is much data to support the assertion that communities are less vulnerable to COVID-19 when vaccine rates are high, and that unvaccinated individuals are more susceptible to the negative effects of the virus. We will not mandate vaccines for anyone at KWS, but all staff and students who have received a COVID-19 vaccine are asked to provide documentation to Amanda McLoughlin, RN. This information will be important for us to conduct contact tracing and will enable us to share information with our community about our vaccination rate.

Medical Privacy - Respect for individual sovereignty, and the unique positionality of every community member in relation to medical choices, is also an important component of community health and wholeness. We all have the legal right to ask someone if they are vaccinated, and we all have a legal right to keep that information private. However, community belonging in a pandemic means that we are also forced to make important decisions based on our knowledge about the safety of our environment. In order to know and judge the relative safety of our environment, some may feel they need to know the vaccination status of their child's teacher, and/or about the vaccination rate of the school as a whole.

We as a school will not share the vaccination status of any student or staff member. If a parent wishes to know if their teacher is vaccinated, and chooses to ask them, we encourage teachers to talk openly and honestly about their situation and decision making, but they will not be required to do so. We hope that parents and staff members who have made different decisions about their own health and well-being can come to understand each other and maintain kindness and respect for each other, regardless of what health decisions they have made. Ultimately, every individual and family will have to make choices about what they believe is best for themselves and their children in light of the information they have available to them.

We believe that the manner in which we discuss these matters is of the utmost importance - not just because individuals have valid medical reasons to make different medical choices, but

perhaps more importantly, because tensions around these choices and differences can cause great harm to the harmony of our school. Please protect the interpersonal integrity of our community and do not question, pressure, or judge anyone based on their known or assumed vaccination status.

In addition, this is an important value for us to model and teach our children. We will not condone or encourage a culture of pressure, shame, or judgment in any way, in relation to COVID-19, vaccines, or medical decisions.

Testing

We are in the process of applying for an in-school testing program offered in partnership between The PolicyLab at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the Chester County Health Department (CCHD). We do not anticipate having access to the program until the beginning of October, so we will assess and communicate about our options as they develop between now and then.

Remote Learning

KWS will not offer remote learning as a student or family choice. When a student or teacher has to quarantine, we will provide remote learning options and/or schoolwork as appropriate, depending on the grade level. Each Section will provide more details about what they can offer their class during periods of quarantine, if and when appropriate. (E.g., HS and MS students will have more virtual learning options than LS and EC students).

Overall, it is important to note that much was learned last year (at KWS and elsewhere) about the potentials, problems, and pitfalls of remote learning, and we will embody that learning in our practices this year. One observation is that mixed-class learning is challenging for both students and teachers; it is much better when all are virtual or all are in person. Therefore, we will minimize the amount of time we spend in virtual mode when some students are on campus.

It may be necessary for fully vaccinated students who are not required to quarantine to transition to virtual learning if the majority of the class is required to quarantine.

Trips & Events

We look forward to enjoying more trips and events this year! Every trip and event will be assessed on a case-by-case basis, and we will make decisions about viability and safety based on location, group size, age, distance, and the requirement of any location we go to. We will try our best to continue our KWS traditions and rituals on campus as much as possible.

Lunch

Our Food For Thought lunch program will be active this year. Under the direction of our new Kitchen Manager, Hilla Haut, we plan to serve lunch every day. We will not eat in the cafeteria, and there will not be a salad bar. Stay tuned for updates and details from Hilla.

Contact Tracing, Isolation, and Quarantine

KWS will make decisions regarding contact tracing, isolation, quarantines, and testing requirements in coordination with the Chester County Health Department. The protocols described below may change based on updated guidance by public health authorities. This guidance will supersede the protocols described below in case of conflict.

- Identification as a close contact is defined as being less than 6 feet from a confirmed positive COVID-19 case for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period or having direct contact with infectious secretions of a COVID-19 case.
- Individuals who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and are identified as a close contact of a COVID-19 case must quarantine at home. A 14-day quarantine after exposure is recommended; however, KWS may allow for the following alternative quarantines on a case-by-case basis:
 - Option 1: No test and no symptoms, quarantine may end after day 10. Return to school on day 11.
 - Option 2: Negative test result on or after day 5, quarantine may end after day 7. Return to school on day 8.
- For individuals with on-going exposure, such as continued household exposure, quarantine does not start until the COVID positive case completes their 10-day isolation period.
- Fully vaccinated individuals with no COVID-like symptoms are not required to quarantine and should be tested 3-5 days following close contact with a COVID-19 case, even if they do not have symptoms. If a fully vaccinated staff or student does not provide proof of a negative COVID-19 test on or before day 6 after exposure, KWS may require them to quarantine at home for the remainder of the 14 days following exposure or until proof of a negative COVID-19 test is provided. Fully vaccinated individuals who test positive or develop symptoms should isolate at home for 10 days.
- Staff and students who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 3 months and recovered do not have to quarantine or get tested again as long as they do not develop new symptoms. If they do become symptomatic, the person should isolate and seek testing.
- If an individual is symptomatic and tests positive for COVID-19, they must stay home until after at least 10 days (isolation) have passed since symptoms first appeared, and at least 24 hours with no fever without fever-reducing medication and symptoms have improved.
- If an individual is asymptomatic and tests positive for COVID-19, they must stay home until after 10 days (isolation) have passed since the positive test specimen was drawn.

If you have any questions about these policies and practices, you may contact Amanda McLoughlin, RN: amcloughlin@kimberton.org