



May 16, 2022

MeANS Community,

Unfortunately, COVID is making a comeback and the following outlines some steps we are taking as a school to confront it. We have had several students and staff test positive, each of which has had a direct impact on our community.

1. **POOL TESTING WILL CONTINUE!** Through a federally funded program Operation Expanded Testing, we will be offering free weekly PCR testing. If you were already signed up for pool testing, you do not need to do anything further. If you would like to opt in, please follow the link below and use the access code: 8K7Q46 to sign up.

<https://testcenter.concentricbyginkgo.com/minor-consent/>

If you prefer, you can also access paper consent forms at our website:

<https://maineacademy.org/covid-19-updates/>

2. **MASKING INDOORS IS STRONGLY RECCOMENDED.** Though not required, masking continues to be an effective strategy for minimizing the spread of COVID. With spring upon us, students are spending more and more time outside where masks are unnecessary.
3. Please re-familiarize yourself with current Isolation protocols for positive cases. We are following the recommendations of the Maine CDC which can be found on our website:

<https://maineacademy.org/covid-19-updates/>

4. Individualized management of close contacts. It is still up to the discretion of individual schools to manage close contacts and most schools are no longer contact tracing or tracking close contacts. We will do so on a per cases basis. Some situations make determining close contacts near impossible, while others offer more obvious connections. Please keep these in mind when someone outside of school tests positive.

It is exhausting to find ourselves back in this position and I'm certain I speak for most when I say that we wish COVID were behind us completely. If you have any questions, please reach out to me or our school nurse Jessica Mitchell at 238-4312.

Thanks,

Matt Newberg
Head of School

MAINE ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES

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