COVID Policies for the 2022-2023 School Year

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Newark Academy has sought to protect the health and safety of our entire community. The protocols and guidelines that follow are based on the guidance of the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH), the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), school consultants, and other public health authorities. We will continue to update these guidelines based on additional guidance or new information about COVID-19. These guidelines will begin on the first day of the school year: Tuesday, September 6.

Prevention Measures

- We ask everyone to stay home in the event that they feel unwell and/or exhibit any of the symptoms compatible with COVID-19, including fever, headache, cough, sore throat, and runny nose.
- Hand washing will be encouraged for all community members. Hand sanitizers will continue to be provided in all corridors, classrooms, and offices.

Vaccines

- Vaccination is the most effective way to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and the risk of serious illness due to COVID-19. Newark Academy strongly encourages all eligible community members to be fully vaccinated. All faculty and staff members are required to be fully vaccinated.
- Newark Academy currently requires all students over the age of 16 to be vaccinated. Students who turn 16 during the 2022-2023 school year should plan to be vaccinated within 60 days of their birthday.

Masks
• For the 2022-23 school year, masks will continue to be optional for community members at Newark Academy unless individuals are returning to school from isolation.

• Regardless of your individual decision about wearing a mask, all community members should uphold our Community Commitments for Belonging by respecting others’ choices and privacy.

• Individuals should supply their own masks, but can visit the nurses’ office if their mask breaks.

Illness and Isolation

• If community members test positive for COVID-19, they should immediately report the test results to one of our school nurses, Kathleen Ollen (kollen@newarka.edu) or Pat Neary (pneary@newarka.edu).

• In accordance with NJDOH guidance, those who test positive for COVID-19 must follow these guidelines:
  ○ If the community member is **asymptomatic**, stay home and isolate for 5 days (with Day 0 as the day of the positive test).
    ■ If symptoms develop within one week of the positive test, the five-day isolation period starts over with Day 0 being the first day of symptoms.
    ■ If the community member is still asymptomatic after five full days, the community member can return to school on Day 6.
  ○ If the community member is **symptomatic**, stay home and isolate for 5 days (with Day 0 as the first day of symptoms).
    ■ If symptoms do not improve after 5 full days (fever still present or if other symptoms have not improved), isolate until fever-free for 24 hours and other symptoms have improved.
    ■ If symptoms resolve after five full days (fever-free for 24 hours and other symptoms improve), the community member can return to school on Day 6.
  ○ For the five days after returning to the building, all above community members must
    ■ Wear a mask at all times inside the building and on any school transportation
- Not participate in indoor extracurricular activities in which masks cannot be “worn correctly and consistently”
- For outdoor extracurricular activities, masks do not need to be worn
- Dine outdoors or in a dining space that is distanced from other community members

**Contact Tracing**

- Based on the guidance of the CDC, CHOP, and other health authorities, Newark Academy will not conduct contract tracing.

**Community Health Pledge:**

- In the spirit of “We” > “Me,” we will once again ask all community members to affirm that health and safety is a shared responsibility by signing a Community Health Pledge. By signing the pledge, community members will pledge to uphold community health and safety protocols and respect the privacy of other community members should someone become ill.