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Dear Shalom School families,

The summer flew by, and the faculty and staff of Shalom School are excited to welcome your students to the 2022-2023 school year! As we approach our fourth school year of the pandemic, we are pleased to see that we are entering into a new phase where living with the reality of COVID is slowly becoming more “normal”. With vaccines now available for children older than 6 months of age and a new bivalent vaccine on the horizon, there is much to be grateful for. That said, while it was our hope that COVID would be less prevalent by the start of the school year, the high case rate in Sacramento and the transmissibility of the current COVID variant requires continued execution of various COVID protocols (as listed below). As always, we know that managing COVID in the school setting is an ever-changing landscape, and our health committee will meet consistently to update these protocols as appropriate.

**COVID Decision Tree:** Please see our latest [COVID Decision Tree](#) which outlines how to respond to a student experiencing symptoms of illness, testing positive for COVID, or being exposed to COVID. There are a few minor updates from the last school year; please let this document guide you and do not hesitate to contact the Head of School with any questions or with circumstances that seem less straightforward.

**Indoor masking:** While the case rate in Sacramento county remains in the red zone, indoor masking will be highly recommended for all students, and required for all faculty and staff members. In large indoor gathering settings with multiple grades (i.e. Tefillah, Kabbalat Shabbat, assemblies, etc.), indoor masking will be required for all students. All adults (parents, visitors, volunteers) in the presence of students inside the Shalom School buildings are required to mask. We seek to promote a spirit of acceptance and will not tolerate teasing or shaming regarding masking choices.

**COVID vaccinations:** COVID-19 vaccines are now available for children as young as 6 months from both Pfizer and Moderna. Vaccines have been rigorously tested and closely monitored. While vaccines do not fully protect against transmission, particularly with recent variants, the efficacy of vaccination at protecting against severe disease, hospitalization and death is tremendously important and well documented. Our health committee strongly recommends vaccination for all eligible children and adults. If you have not already done so in the previous school year, please provide the front office with your child(ren)’s proof of COVID vaccination so that we can effectively track our student population vaccination rate.

Additionally, to volunteer on campus and directly serve students, we require that proof of COVID-19 vaccination and a booster be submitted to our front office. All volunteers are required to wear a mask indoors when working directly with children. Those who are visiting campus are required to mask indoors, but do not need to submit proof of vaccination.

**Testing to return to school:** In an effort to have a healthy start to the school year after summer travel and gathering, **we ask that your child(ren) undergo two sequential COVID tests at home during the first week of school**; rapid antigen testing is sufficient. Please test on Sunday, August 14th or on the morning

of Monday, August 15th before attending the Class Visit Day and again on Wednesday, August 17th or Thursday, August 18th. You do not need to submit proof of your test, but please be in touch if your child(ren) have tested positive.

**Student drop-off and pick-up:** We look forward to welcoming parents into our classroom spaces at drop-off and pick-up as a means for connection and quick communication. K-6 parents may park and drop their children off or pick them up by foot or use they may use main parking circle. Preschool and Pre-k parents are required to park and drop their children off and pick them up inside the classroom. When parents are indoors while students are present, they must be masked. Classrooms will have masks available for parents who want to enter, but have forgotten their masks.

Our community continues to be our greatest source of strength, and I thank you in advance for your cooperation. May we have a year of good health.

L'Shalom

Jilian

Shalom School's mission is to provide each child with an outstanding education in a nurturing environment that is academically excellent, inclusive, innovative, and inspired by Jewish values and traditions.



[www.shalomschool.org](http://www.shalomschool.org)



The Jewish Federation  
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