



December 29, 2021

Dear Shalom School families,

**This email contains important updates including:**

- \*New testing requirements before and after returning to school**
- \*Updated quarantine requirements**
- \*Changes to our masking policy**

I hope that you have all had the opportunity to decompress and enjoy time with your families over this winter break. Like many of you, those of us working at Shalom School have been watching the evolving situation with the unprecedented rise of the Omicron variant closely. Since we left school for winter break, the test positivity rate in Sacramento has risen dramatically and we are hearing more information about the potential impacts for our students and community. With that in mind, we are writing to inform you of new protocols to ensure our safe return to school on Monday, January 3, 2022. It remains our top priority to keep Shalom School open and running for in-person instruction, and as a result, we have to enhance our procedures for keeping students and faculty safe and healthy while at school. Below you will find our most up-to-date guidance which we will require all families to adhere to:

**Proof of negative test required to return to school:** In order to return to school on Monday, January 3, 2022, every student, faculty and staff member must submit a negative COVID test that was taken within the previous 72 hours (the earliest the test can be taken is Friday, December 31, 2021). We will accept at-home rapid antigen tests (FDA EUA approved), lab-based rapid antigen tests, and PCR tests. You can find various testing sites [here](#) and we ask that you show either printed proof or a photo of your test results when you drop off on Monday morning. Students and faculty will not be admitted to campus on Monday, January 3, 2022 without negative test results submitted. Please contact Jilian Bar-or at [jbar-or@shalomschool.org](mailto:jbar-or@shalomschool.org) if you have trouble securing an appointment or an at-home test.

**Follow-up testing required January 5th- 7th:** In order to effectively ensure that our students and faculty did not contract COVID over winter break, a second test must be taken between Wednesday, January 5, 2022 – Friday, January 7, 2022. This test can also be an at-home rapid antigen test, lab-based rapid antigen test, or a PCR test and we ask that you email either a pdf or a photo of your test results to Jilian Bar-or at [jbar-or@shalomschool.org](mailto:jbar-or@shalomschool.org).

**Masking:** Students in our K-6 program and all faculty and staff are no longer permitted to wear cloth masks alone. N95 or KN95 or equivalent masks are recommended, though surgical masks will be accepted. Students are permitted to wear cloth masks if layering over a surgical mask. Shalom School will keep a supply of extra N95 or KN95 masks in the office for those who are not wearing the correct mask. For preschool and pre-k students, we strongly encourage N95 or KN95 masks or double masking, and we discourage single layer cloth masks as they do not provide enough protection, especially from the Omicron variant.

**Quarantine for positive results:** In the event that a student or faculty/staff member tests positive, we will contact SCPH (Sacramento County Public Health) regarding next steps for the other students in the classroom. COVID positive students in both our preschool and K-6 classes will be required to stay out of program for 10 days from symptom onset or from their first positive test and have near resolution of symptoms without fever before returning to school. While new shorter quarantines have been suggested by the CDC for working adults (5 days of quarantine followed by 5 days of consistent masking), this does not apply to our students who eat and nap unmasked in groups. The California Department of Public Health has yet to make any changes to their recommendations based on the CDC's updated employee guidance. If and when any changes are recommended by CDPH, we will evaluate them with our Health Committee.

Please be aware that the current situation is highly fluid. We anticipate further changes in policy in the coming weeks and appreciate your flexibility and patience as we attempt to navigate our way through these uncharted waters together. As always, we make decisions for our school community with the guiding principle of *pikuach nefesh*, the Jewish law that states the preservation of human life is always the most important priority. We thank you for your partnership in ensuring a successful and fulfilling start of the second semester of the school year.

In community,

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)



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