



Capital Area School for the Arts  
Charter School

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December 11, 2020

Dear CASA Families:

As we monitor the COVID-19 Early Warning System Dashboard on the Pennsylvania Department of Health's website, we continue to see a large increase of COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

**For the period ending December 10, 2020, Dauphin County remained in the substantial community spread category. This is the seventh week in a row. The incidence rate of cases per 100,000 residents was 491.2 and the percent positivity was 18.6%. The Departments of Health and Education have repeatedly recommended complete virtual learning when the incidence rate is greater than 100/100,000 residents and/or the percent positivity reaches 10%. Because of this, CASA will remain in the virtual instructional delivery model until at least January 4, 2021. We will continue to reevaluate the level of community spread on a weekly basis and will update CASA families accordingly. Our hope is to bring students safely back into the building as soon as possible.**

On December 4, 2020, the Pennsylvania Department of Health (DOH) began providing options to shorten quarantine for people who had close contact with others diagnosed with COVID-19. The 14-day quarantine is still recommended as the best and safest option by the DOH, therefore, CASA will expect that students and staff members who are close contacts of someone with COVID-19 quarantine for the complete 14 days before returning to school.

As the Coronavirus situation in our country and our community is developing quickly, we urge you to take necessary precautions to limit the spread of COVID-19.

- **Wear a mask and maintain a physical distance of at least 6 feet** from any person while outside the home and avoid sharing food, drinks, or utensils.
- **Avoid close contact with those outside your immediate household and limit non-essential travel and activities.**
- **Stay home when you are sick.** Watch for symptoms of COVID-19 including cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and/or diarrhea.
- **Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.** Sing the Happy Birthday song twice to help know when it has been 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizers that contain at least 60% alcohol.
- **Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue and then dispose of the tissue and clean your hands immediately.** If you do not have a tissue, use your sleeve, not your hands, to cover coughs and sneezes.
- **Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipes.**
- **If you are contacted by the Pennsylvania Department of Health please cooperate with monitoring and follow all instructions so that other people do not become sick.**

If you or any members of your household develop symptoms of COVID-19 or have symptoms that worsen, notify the Pennsylvania Department of Health immediately at 1-877-724-3258 and contact a health care provider. In addition, please contact CASA Nurse, Ann Stillwater, at [astillwater@casa-arts.org](mailto:astillwater@casa-arts.org). Please visit the [Pennsylvania Department of Health website](http://www.health.pa.gov) (www.health.pa.gov) for the latest and most accurate information about COVID-19.

Sincerely,

Timothy R. Wendling  
CEO/Principal