



Capital Area School for the Arts  
Charter School

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January 6, 2022

Dear CASA Community,

First, I would like to thank everyone for following our Health and Safety Plan. With mitigation efforts in place, CASA has been able to remain open for in-person learning while minimizing the risk of transmission at school. We ask that everyone also adheres to mitigation efforts outside of school, because that is where the virus has been spreading most rapidly. At this time, we have not traced any of the transmission to the school environment.

Before winter break, CASA had very few positive cases and students/staff needing to quarantine. Now that we are back from winter break, there are at least 7 students who are currently testing positive, and we have many more who are in quarantine. **Because of this, CASA will pivot to asynchronous virtual learning on FRIDAY, JANUARY 7 and MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2022.** This amount of time will allow contact tracing to be completed and time for the Strawberry Square team to deep clean the facilities. **We will return to in-person learning on TUESDAY, January 11, 2022.** Please reference the attachment to this email for specifics regarding the upcoming two virtual learning days. All CASA afterschool activities are cancelled from Friday, January 7 through Monday, January 10, 2022.

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As conditions continue changing, CASA will rely on the CDC and PA Department of Health for specific guidelines that address the pandemic. The CDC's newest guidelines and subsequently the PA Department of Health's Health Alert Network Update #615 outline new isolation and quarantine periods for COVID-19. CASA will begin following these guidelines immediately. The specific scenarios are listed below. As always, if you have any questions, need to report your child's vaccination/booster status, or report COVID-19 symptoms or close contact protocols, please reach out to Nurse Ann Stillwater at [astillwater@casa-arts.org](mailto:astillwater@casa-arts.org) or at 717-732-8450 ext. 7512.

### **Scenario 1 – Individuals who test positive for COVID-19**

If someone develops symptoms consistent with COVID-19, testing is recommended regardless of vaccination status or prior infection status. Anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 must:

- Isolate at home for 5 days.
- As much as possible:
  - ☑ Stay in a specific room away from other people and pets in the home.
  - ☑ Use a separate bathroom.
  - ☑ Wear a mask around other people in the home.

If the person with COVID-19 either has no symptoms or has resolved or improving symptoms (including fever-free for 24 hours without fever-reducing medications) after Day 5 of isolation, the person with COVID-19 may leave their house and attend school, provided they wear a well-fitting mask when around other people.

All persons who test positive for COVID-19 are recommended to wear a mask while around other people during Days 6 through 10. Day 0 is defined as either the date of symptom onset, or the date the test specimen was collected if the patient is asymptomatic.

### **Scenario 2 – Individuals who do NOT need to quarantine after exposure to COVID-19**

Individuals who recovered from a COVID-19 infection in the last three months and those who are fully vaccinated under the new guidelines also do NOT need to quarantine after being exposed (i.e., close contact) to someone with COVID-19. Fully vaccinated means that an individual;

- Completed the primary series of COVID-19 vaccinations and obtained a booster dose;
- Completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months and thus are not yet eligible for the booster vaccination;
- Completed the primary series of the J&J vaccine within the last 2 months.

Heterologous (mix-and-match) dosing may occur for the booster dose.

Individuals who can be categorized into these groups do not need to quarantine at home; however, they do need to wear a mask around others for 10 days. Additionally, these individuals should be tested on Day 5 after exposure, if possible. If this test is positive, the individual should follow the recommendations above for individuals who test positive.

### **Scenario 3 – Individuals who DO need to quarantine after exposure to COVID-19**

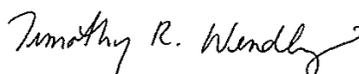
The following groups of individuals DO need to quarantine after being exposed to someone with COVID-19:

- People who have completed the primary series of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine more than 6 months ago and have not received a booster vaccination;
- People who have completed the primary series of the J&J vaccine more than 2 months ago and are not boosted;
- People who are not vaccinated.

Individuals who are categorized into these groups must quarantine at home for 5 days, and then wear a mask around others for an additional 5 days. Additionally, these individuals should be tested on Day 5 after exposure if possible (the day of exposure is considered Day 0). If this test is positive, the individual should follow recommendations above for individuals who test positive.

Please visit [www.casa-arts.org](http://www.casa-arts.org) for more information and for the COVID dashboard which is updated weekly. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Timothy R. Wendling  
Chief Executive Officer/Principal

Attachment