



March 8, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you healthy and doing well. Spring is off to an exciting start—with the state shifting to lifting the mask mandate, school programs have local decision-making rights to update or change COVID 19 protocols. This letter is to inform you of the COVID 19 protocol changes in the EI/ECSE programs.

Masking: Starting March 14, 2022, the EI/ECSE staff will no longer be required to wear masks unless working closely with children. EI/ECSE children still are not required to wear masks.

Here is the updated mask protocol for SCESD EI/ECSE staff:

- Because EI/ECSE children under 5 are unable to be vaccinated or some are medically fragile, staff are asked to wear masks when working within three feet of a child for any given activity or service.
 - For example, staff will wear a mask while working with students during eating/feeding routines, hygiene routines/changing and toileting, etc.
- If students are not present, staff can choose to wear a mask or not.
 - Wearing a mask anywhere is always permissible.
 - Staff have the right to wear a mask in any school and/or ESD setting,
 - Please always respect each individual's choice to wear a mask.

Quarantine/Isolation: Changes to the quarantine and isolation guidelines will also start March 14, 2022:

- Staff and students –vaccinated or unvaccinated-- will not be required to quarantine if exposed to a positive case of COVID 19.
- Staff and students who test positive for COVID 19 or have primary symptoms of COVID 19, must isolate at home for 5 days, returning only when fever is gone for 24 hours, and other symptoms have improved.

Contact Tracing: Instead of contact tracing, we will provide cohort notifications when exposures occur. These notifications allow individuals and families to take additional precautions according to their individual needs. In order to notify cohorts, we will continue to require the sign in/sign out classroom sheets.

Other: All classroom/gym cleaning, hand hygiene, and room ventilation protocols will remain in place in efforts to continue to mitigate exposure to COVID 19. Please see www.scesd.k12.or.us for all updated protocols by March 14, 2022. If you have questions, feel free to contact me or your child's EI/ECSE Service Coordinator.

Thank you very much.

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