

Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

Q – Will there be a mandated quarantine following a return to DC after travel to a high-risk state or country?

A – The School continues to urge community members to consider the CDC and DC public health guidance against holiday travel.

Lab School has utilized the public health guidance from the CDC and DC public health to develop our **policy regarding return-to-campus following travel**. The School requires a **10-day quarantine** during which the individual monitors for symptoms following travel to a high-risk state (currently defined in DC as all states except Virginia, Maryland, and Hawaii) or country. **In addition**, in accordance with DC mandates, the School requires a **negative COVID-19 PCR test administered no sooner than 5 days following return from travel**. For Winter Break, this means community members who are returning to campus should **return from travel by January 1, and must participate in the on-campus mandatory COVID-19 testing on January 7**.

Q – Will the language in the Magnus app be changed regarding the 14 day requirement after travel?

A – We will adjust the language in our daily health check slightly to ask “within the past 10 days have you traveled to an area identified as high risk by the DC government.” If the answer to this question is “yes,” community members will need to provide our nurse with a **negative COVID-19 test result taken no sooner than 5 days after return from travel** as well as adhere to the **10 days of quarantine** and self-monitoring for symptoms. Community members also have the option to quarantine and self-monitor for 14 days without providing a test result.

Q – How will the School make the decision about whether to return as planned in January?

A – The Board’s COVID-19 Task Force will meet in early January to make a decision about proceeding with the announced return-to-campus schedule. The factors considered in this decision are multi-faceted, and include: virus metrics for our region (including positivity rate, 7-day average cases per 100,000 residents, and rate of change in COVID-19 cases for our area); requirements, mandates, or guidance from DC public health and government officials; the overall physical health of our community (as tracked through our daily health check and information reported to our nurses); insights from our School and other schools regarding transmission within the school setting. In addition, the point-in-time positivity rate of our community as measured by our mandatory COVID-19 testing will be an important factor.

Q – Will there be COVID testing at Lab beyond the month of January?

A – Yes. The School plans to continue using testing strategically and periodically to assist in our risk mitigation efforts. Testing dates will be announced throughout the Spring.

Q – Can the School continue to emphasize the importance of adherence to the Community Agreement for all members of the Lab School community?

A – Yes. Continued emphasis of our community agreement will be an important part of our schoolwide communication plan throughout the Spring. The School is committed to reinforcing this message with all members of the Lab School community, and our nurses or administrators will follow up with any community member if there is a concern.

Q – When will the vaccine be available to Lab School employees?

A – The Mayor’s office has announced that the vaccine will be available to educators working in the District of Columbia in Phase 1B, following Phase 1A, which encompasses health care workers and first responders. We do not yet have a timeline for when Phase 1B will commence, or how educators will receive the vaccine. We will continue to monitor these evolving plans and will share this information as soon as it is made available.

Q – When do I need to decide if my child(ren) will attend school in person or virtually?

A – In the first week of January, we will provide reminders about our risk mitigation plan, our community agreement, the modality by which teachers will work (either in-person or virtually), and any other additional details parents may need in order to make a decision about how their child(ren) will attend school for the third quarter. At that time, we will ask you to make a decision. While we will allow some latitude in the case of a family emergency situation, in general, this decision will be a binding one for the third quarter. Having a solid understanding of how students will engage in learning is an essential part of our ability to serve both in-person and virtual students well.

Q – Will I be able to choose a different option – whether in-person or virtual – for the fourth quarter?

A – Yes. We will provide an update regarding our plans for fourth quarter before Spring Break. At that time, parents will have another opportunity to make a decision about how their child(ren) will attend during the fourth quarter.