



January 2, 2022

Dear TPS Community,

As we begin the new year, we find ourselves still dealing with the effects of COVID, this time primarily the Omicron variant. We all hoped that this would be well behind us by now. However, please know that we hear your concerns and understand them. We are aware of the increases in COVID cases seen in neighboring counties and the state as a whole, and yes, the case numbers in Tenafly have risen. However:

- Our numbers remain relatively low compared to our total population.
- This low percentage combined with the need to follow NJDOE and NJDOH guidelines make it impossible to switch to full virtual instruction without the risk of having virtual days not count toward our required 180 annual school days.
- For these days to count, the NJDOH and the county office of education must identify that our case numbers require this move, and at this time, our numbers do not meet these requirements for a move to virtual instruction.

Despite the high contagion of this variant, all current screening protocols remain in place, including allowing fully vaccinated individuals who may have been exposed to COVID to continue attending school and activities provided they remain asymptomatic. The [COVID-Exclusion criteria](#) continue to apply, and families are encouraged to review all information posted on our website as well as [past communications](#) related to our health and safety practices and the expectations of family cooperation. The website is up-to-date and further explains these practices. (Please note: we are exploring the ability and associated process necessary to implement the new Test to Stay [TTS] practice that would enable asymptomatic unvaccinated individuals identified as close contacts to remain in school with an onsite testing protocol).

The physical and mental health of our students and our staff is our top priority and we will continue to ensure proper mask wearing, social distancing where possible, and the opening of doors and windows to maintain and where possible increase ventilation in the classrooms. We will continue to optimize space between students to the greatest extent possible within our eating areas, and remain aware of seating arrangements during onsite, indoor lunch for more accurate contact tracing.

We will also continue to monitor cases and work in coordination with the local health officials based on the case details. As soon as we receive and review any updated recommendations and regulations based on the NJDOH guidelines, we will make recommendations and institute changes as necessary to mitigate further this highly contagious transmission. We ask you to be prepared should a switch to a single-session day or full virtual instruction be recommended or required by health and county officials. Thank you for your continued vigilance, patience, and understanding.