



July 20, 2021

Dear Cheverus Community,

I'm hoping you are all enjoying a restful and joyous summer with family and friends! I'm writing to update you in regards to our COVID-19 planning for the 2021-2022 academic year.

First, I would like to thank the many families who responded to our recent survey about vaccinations, mask-wearing and pool testing. Your responses - over 280 of them - have helped shape our thinking and planning over the past month. According to the survey results, approximately 75% of our student body will be fully vaccinated by the time we open for the 2021-2022 school year! When we combine this with the 100% of our faculty and staff who will be fully vaccinated, we believe we will be able to provide academic and cocurricular programming without the interruptions we experienced last year.

This summer we have examined the mechanics of a pool-testing system for Cheverus, and though we do not anticipate implementing such a system to start the school year we do view it as an option for us should the COVID-19 infection rate begin to rise next fall or winter. We have also been paying close attention to the guidance for the coming school year from the CDC and the Maine Department of Education. Most significant have been the DOE's decisions to remove physical distancing and mask-wearing requirements for all indoor preK-12 school activities.

Here's where we are with our planning for the start of school in August:

- Students who are fully vaccinated will need to provide proof of vaccination to Nurse Harvey's office prior to starting athletics/classes in the fall. This will allow us to remove your name from any lists and requirements should we need to do contact-tracing.
- Students who have NOT submitted proof of full vaccination will be subject to 14 day quarantine requirements from all Cheverus classes and activities (including athletics) should they be identified as close contacts to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Students are welcome but not required to continue wearing face-coverings, particularly if they are unvaccinated and during the cold & flu season.
- Students are encouraged to continue with the good hygiene and hand-washing practices we have employed throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Students should stay home when they aren't feeling well, experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or being tested for COVID-19.
- We will return to our pre-COVID-19 class schedule with all classes meeting in-person, five days a week. Studying remotely will not be an option unless a student is identified and required to quarantine as a close contact.

**AT THIS TIME WE ARE ASKING ALL FAMILIES TO SUBMIT A VACCINATION STATUS FORM FOR EACH STUDENT ATTENDING CHEVERUS IN THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR.**

Please submit this form by Friday, August 6th. This will allow us to maintain an accurate database of vaccinated students should we need to conduct contact-tracing on our campus this coming year.

Finally though we are grateful for the measures everyone has taken over the past year to keep us safe, we continue to monitor the number of COVID-19 cases in Maine and are aware that we may need to return to some mask-wearing and social-distancing protocols should the number of cases in Maine rise over the coming months.

Thank you as always for the gift of working with you and your students at Cheverus.

Peace,

John Moran