

CHEVERUS

January 10, 2022

Dear Cheverus Community,

I'm sure I hardly need to remind you that we are approaching the two year anniversary of a day that changed all of our lives: March 13, 2020. As the COVID-19 pandemic spread across the globe, Cheverus shifted to remote learning, athletic seasons were cancelled, and we held our graduation ceremony for the class of 2020 at the Saco drive-in.

Living with COVID-19 has gone through many phases since that spring. We spread out our desks for social distancing, we wore masks in the building and then we didn't and now we do again. We now have vaccinations and boosters and a pool testing program as lines of protection and detection.

Returning from Christmas break the Omicron variant has shifted our thinking once again and pushed us into yet another phase of living with COVID-19. In response we believe the changes listed below - effective immediately - will continue to keep Cheverus on the safe and in-person path we have journeyed on for almost two years.

- Based on the most recent recommendations from the Maine CDC and DOE, we will reduce the period of isolation/quarantine for members of our community who test positive from 10 days to 5 days. All students, teachers, or staff who test positive for COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status, shall isolate until they meet the [U.S. CDC criteria for release from isolation](#).
- As long as our masking policy is in effect, school-based close contacts - regardless of their vaccination status - will be allowed to continue with in-person learning so long as they remain asymptomatic.
- We will no longer conduct contact-tracing in the manner we have up to this point in the pandemic. We will continue to notify the entire community about the status of COVID-19 cases in our community.
- Close contacts that occur outside of school-based activities (ie. family, club sports, etc.) are responsible for following in the [U.S. CDC criteria for close contacts](#).
- Considering the challenges of scheduling and getting PCR test results, we will now accept positive COVID-19 home/rapid tests for students and staff in order to shift community members more quickly into isolation/quarantining and remote learning and reduce the time spent out of school.

Thank you once again for doing your part to keep Cheverus safe. If you have any questions or comments about the changes listed above, please don't hesitate to contact me or Nurse Harvey directly.

Peace,

Dr. John Moran