

CHEVERUS

July 31, 2021

Dear Cheverus Community,

As you may know, July 31st is the Feast day of St. Ignatius of Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus. Happy Feast Day to our Jesuit community and all Jesuit works worldwide!

Earlier this week Governor Mills announced new recommendations for mask-wearing based on guidance from the CDC and in response to the rise of COVID-19 cases - particularly of the highly contagious Delta variant - over the past few weeks. On Thursday our Administrative team participated in a Zoom call with Dr. Nirav Shah and the Maine DOE to learn more about these recent cases and the implications for schools in our area. I'm writing to you today to update you following this new wave of information.

First, many thanks to the students and families who have already submitted their VACCINATION STATUS FORM. Of the responses we have received thus far (roughly half of our student population), 85% of our students have been vaccinated! This is a remarkable percentage when we consider that the average in Maine for 12-19 year olds is 48%.

For those students and families who have not submitted this form, please do so by Friday, August 6. The DOE will be requiring us to submit an accurate vaccination percentage for our entire student population at the start of the school year; students will not be allowed to participate in any school activities - including athletics - if this form has not been submitted.

In our last letter regarding COVID-19 plans we stated that we would consider implementing a pool-testing system "should the COVID-19 infection rate begin to rise." It seems that that time has come earlier than expected, and we are now planning to implement a pool-testing program for the start of the school year. More details about how students and families can choose to opt into this program will be available soon.

In regards to mask-wearing:

- At this time (an important phrase with all of our COVID-19 planning), we will echo Governor Mills' recommendation that members of our community wear masks in our school buildings regardless of their vaccination status. Considering that infection rates are on the rise in our area, this is a good practice and additional layer of protection for our community.
- Should Cumberland county shift into the category of "High" or "Substantial" rate of community transmission (we are currently in "Moderate"), then mask-wearing will be required for all members of our community regardless of vaccination status.
- Consistent with the CDC's order, mask-wearing will be required of any student riding a bus regardless of vaccination status.

Please let us know if you have any questions or thoughts regarding these most recent announcements and plans. We continue to prioritize the safety of our school community and look forward to seeing all of our students back on campus soon.

Peace,

John Moran