



March 4, 2022

Dear SLLIS Community,

As you are likely aware, St. Louis City's mask mandate is set to expire this weekend. In order to determine next steps, SLLIS has been working closely with the City's Department of Health and our pediatric infectious disease partners, especially Dr. Jason Newland with Washington University's Department of Pediatrics. SLLIS is proud to have been a leader in using data to inform its COVID-19 decisions, especially safe school reopening, and is prepared to take the next steps to optimize our learning environment for our staff and students.

The situation with the pandemic in our community is growing safer each day. It is important to note that the updates proposed here represent the next phase of the pandemic for all schools - not just SLLIS. In fact, many schools have already taken these next steps. At SLLIS, we are committed to responding to feedback from our community. To that end, we intend to use your feedback to inform our timeline for adopting less restrictive mitigation strategies.

Please read the attached information carefully, then let us know your feedback by responding to the survey linked here: <https://forms.gle/HCSoiSAu92feSGqy9>. (SLLIS staff - please complete the STAFF survey, which was emailed to you on March 4). Once we have heard from our stakeholders and developed detailed plans, our Board of Directors will vote on a timeline for updated mitigation strategies early next week.

The past two years have been extremely challenging for all of us. We thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Dr. Meghan E. Hill
Superintendent
meghan@sllis.org



Proposed Updated COVID Procedures

March 4, 2022

Please share your feedback on these proposed updates by taking our survey here:

<https://forms.gle/HCSoiSAu92feSGqy9>

Once we have heard from our stakeholders and develop detailed plans, our Board of Directors will vote on a timeline and updated mitigation strategies early next week.

Our Objectives

We hope to achieve the following by adjusting our mitigation procedures:

- Optimize the educational environment to support language immersion learning.
- Keep students in school so learning is continuous.
- Use specific metrics to increase mitigation when necessary.

Please note: All procedures that are not specifically mentioned below (social distancing, hand hygiene, daily health screening, quarantine, etc) will remain in place until further notice.

Proposed Update 1: Mask Situational Environment

This aligns with the objective to optimize the educational environment to support language immersion learning.

- Staff and students in Grades K-8 would make their own decisions about whether or not to wear a mask in the school setting.
- Staff and students in Pre-K would continue with universal masking.
- SLLIS would highly recommend that individuals consult with their doctors when determining whether to wear a mask at school.
- SLLIS would highly recommend masking for individuals who are not vaccinated.

Proposed Update 2: Continuous Learning

This aligns with the objective to keep students in school so learning is continuous.

- Students would be able to stay in school when exhibiting one symptom, such as a runny nose.



- SLLIS would require further evaluation of students when they exhibit two or more symptoms or one of the following: fever, taste/smell changes, difficulty breathing, persistent cough.

Proposed Update 3: Increase Mitigation When Necessary

This aligns with the objective to increase mitigation as needed to ensure safety.

- SLLIS would implement Updates 1 and 2 (see above) moving forward.
- SLLIS would shift to an **Increased Mitigation Plan** for a minimum of two weeks if the combined staff and student population on SLLIS' campus reach 1.5% presumed or confirmed positive for COVID-19. This Increased Mitigation Plan would be exactly what SLLIS has been implementing from August 2020 until the present and would include:
 - Requiring masks for all individuals
 - Evaluating students with any symptom

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are we considering updates to our procedures now?

- Public health data indicate that we are reaching very low levels of COVID-19 transmission in St. Louis City.
- You can review the levels of COVID in any community using this CDC tool: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html#anchor_82254
- We know a lot more about COVID-19 than we did before.
- We have many tools at our disposal for prevention and treatment of the disease.
- Children continue to be impacted at much lower levels than adults.

Why would the Pre-K continue to wear masks universally under the new procedures?

Our three and four year olds are not yet eligible for vaccines. As such, public health experts recommend that masks be worn in the Pre-K setting until further notice.