

Dear WCA Families,

We understand that families might choose to gather or travel this Thanksgiving in spite of the pandemic. Given this reality, we feel that the safest option for our students and teachers who are currently engaged in on-campus learning is to return to full distance learning mode for the week after Thanksgiving break until Monday, December 7th. With the recent surge of cases in Marin, we believe this proactive approach will provide for safer and more consistent in-person instruction for students and staff in the long run.

WCA continues to partner closely with the Marin County Department of Public Health and is following the guidelines of the California Department of Public Health and CDC to ensure that we can continue to provide safe, in-person instruction for our students who are currently on campus. In advance of the holidays we are sharing information on our re-entry plans, as well as guidelines for travel and gatherings. [Here](#) is the latest press release from Marin County Department of Public Health regarding the holidays. In addition, Governor Newsom just released this [travel advisory](#) yesterday.

Re-Entry Plan for WCA

We ask that you and your family take the needed precautions according to the below schedule:

- **Friday November 20:** Distance learning only with early release at 12:00 (pick-up meal service will be available)
- **November 23-27:** Thanksgiving Break (no school)
- **November 27:** Please do not introduce any new members into your social bubble after this date and avoid travel when possible
- **November 29:** Please limit social contact for the week and quarantine. If you do need to travel, please plan to return to Marin by November 29th and quarantine.
- **November 30-December 4:** School-wide distance learning week (meal service will resume as normal).

COVID-19 testing for staff will be provided on campus **Tuesday, December 1st**.

December 7-18: Resume in-person instruction (current cohorts only)

- Note: this is for Thanksgiving Break only. WCA will make a decision about Winter Break Re-Entry Plans by December 11, 2020

Gatherings, some types of travel, and/or other activities can put your family at higher risk for exposure to COVID-19. Please consider the following factors as you plan for any upcoming holiday gatherings and/or travel.

High-Risk Activities

Social gatherings where one or more of the following high risk factors are present:

- Hosting or attending a social gathering of **more than three households**, such as a holiday celebration, is **prohibited** by the California Department of Public Health.
- People have traveled from distant communities or the group is made up of people from different geographic locations.
- Spread of COVID-19 is high in the community.
- You meet in a confined, poorly ventilated indoor space.
- Not everyone wears a mask.
- Physical distancing of 6ft between non-household members is not observed.
- People freely share food and personal items with others.

Travel that includes one or more of the following high risk scenarios:

- Being in an area that is experiencing a surge or high levels of COVID-19, including destinations where the positivity rate is above 5%. You can check [states](#), counties, and cities to determine if these areas are experiencing high levels of COVID-19. You can also check the [Travel Health Notices](#) for recommendations for foreign countries and U.S. territories.
- Traveling on flights with layovers or on river/cruise boats.
- Lodging which includes sharing spaces with many people and shared bathroom facilities.
- Being in crowds — for example malls and movie theaters.
- Attending a mass gathering like a sporting event, concert, or parade.

Please review the CDC's guidance on assessing your family's [risk](#) in various activities and factors to consider for [holiday celebrations](#).

If your family participates in one or more of the high risk activities listed above or you think that your family may have been exposed to COVID-19 before, during, or after the holidays, we strongly encourage taking these next steps:

- Consult with your physician about getting your family tested for COVID-19 prior to returning to campus. COVID-19 symptoms generally appear within 2 – 14 days of exposure. Your physician will discuss the correct timing of testing based on your potential exposure. Typically the first of the COVID-19 tests should be taken 5 days into the quarantine period after your return home and the second should be taken no more than 72 hours later.

We are excited by the news that the California Department of Public Health has moved Marin County from Tier 2 or “substantial risk” status to the less restrictive Tier 3 or “moderate risk” level. While we have made great progress as a community, we must continue to be vigilant in order to continue to offer a safe and healthy on campus learning program. We understand pandemic fatigue and know this is hard but feel that kids in school should be a top community priority. We thank you in advance for your continued partnership.

Whatever your plans are for the holidays, we hope that you will find safe ways to connect with loved ones. Wishing everyone a safe and healthy holiday season.