



TEANECK COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL

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December 23, 2021

Dear TCCS Community,

As we head into a much needed Holiday Recess, I want to thank you all for the support, flexibility, and grace that you've demonstrated over these first four months of the 2021-2022 school year. Your cooperation and vigilance has been vital in ensuring that our return to full in-person instruction has been a success, and your willingness to comply with our frequently changing protocols has helped us to provide the best possible educational experience to our students, while following best practices and official guidance for keeping everyone safe.

With local Covid-19 numbers on the rise in our nation, state, and local school community, I am urging everyone to double down on the cooperation and vigilance that you have exhibited so far this year. In order to successfully weather the storm of the incoming Omicron variant surge, we will be reinforcing many of our existing protocols and implementing several new ones in order to ensure that we are able to continue with the same in-person instructional program that we have been able to provide to our students so far this year.

With this in mind, please note the following important actions that we will be taking and requesting as we prepare to return to school on Monday, January 3, 2022:

COVID POSITIVE AND CLOSE CONTACT FORMS - In order to streamline our process for collecting information regarding positive cases and close contacts that occur outside of the school setting, we have created online report forms for parents to use to notify the school if their student tests positive for Covid-19 or has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive (other than in-school close contacts). These forms will be available on the TCCS homepage and should be used whenever applicable (especially during this holiday break).

JANUARY AT-HOME SCREENING ATTESTATION - Parents of all students must complete the January 2022 At Home Screening Attestation at <https://bit.ly/TCCS-Jan22-CSA> prior to returning to school in January.

TRAVEL QUARANTINES - As has been the case all year, non-vaccinated students who travel beyond NJ or bordering states must quarantine for a period of 7 days (with a negative Covid test) or 10 days (without a test) after they return home from their trip. Parents of Non- and partially vaccinated students traveling beyond NJ, NY, PA, or DE should report their travel plans at <https://bit.ly/tccs-str>. If you are traveling with a non- or partially vaccinated student over the break, please be sure to notify the school ASAP via this online form.

AT HOME COVID TESTING - Prior to returning to school on January 3, all students and staff are encouraged to get tested on their own at a testing site or at home to ensure that they are negative. Free, at-home saliva-based tests are available from the NJDOH. Please visit <https://learn.vaulthealth.com/nj/> for information! While not mandatory, independent testing prior to returning to school can ensure that staff and students are not infectious. Positive results should be reported IMMEDIATELY using the online form mentioned above.

IN-SCHOOL COVID TESTING - Our in-school testing program will resume in January.

Student Testing: ALL parents are encouraged to register their children for this FREE program. Please complete the consent form at <https://testcenter.concentricbyginkgo.com/minor-consent> and use the following district access code: NFIW5A

Staff Testing: While the local COVID-19 Activity Level is in the “High” or “Very High” range, ALL staff members (regardless of vaccination status) will be required to participate in our in-school testing program and will be tested twice per week, as long as they are in school on the days that testing is being conducted. The only exempt staff will be those who have tested positive for Covid-19 within 90 days. Staff who would rather submit at-home or independent test results in lieu of the in-school program will be permitted to do so. This frequent testing of our staff will ensure that we have enough healthy personnel available to continue with our in-person instructional program during periods of high and very high local spread.

IN-PERSON EVENTS & GATHERING RESTRICTIONS - For the entire month of January (and potentially longer, depending on local conditions), we will be restricting in-person gatherings at the school as follows:

Parent and Board Meetings: Parent meetings (conferences, IEP meetings, etc.) and Public Board Meetings will be conducted virtually via Zoom.

Athletics and Quiz Bowl: Indoor athletic competitions may continue at the school, but spectators will not be permitted. Games will be streamed online. The Quiz Bowl tournament originally scheduled for January 29 will be rescheduled to a date later in the spring.

QUARANTINE TIME FRAME - In accordance with newly revised guidelines from the NJ Department of Health, non-vaccinated students who are close contacts of individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 and who are asymptomatic will quarantine for 10 days (or 7 days with negative test results collected at 5-7 days) but continue to monitor for symptoms for 14 days.

I understand that these updates will be challenging and may come as a disappointment to many, particularly since we have made such great strides over the past few months to regain a sense of normalcy in our school operations. However, your full cooperation will be required to ensure that we can get through this next period of the school year while remaining in-person, by following these revisions, as well as our existing protocols -- all of which are based on recommended health and safety guidelines.

I am hopeful that these tightened protocols will only be necessary for the short term and that we may get back to fewer restrictions sooner rather than later. In the meantime, we are committed to following whatever guidance we continue to receive from our local health department and the New Jersey Departments of Health and Education to ensure the safety of our students and staff, while still providing the best educational program that we possibly can.

Once again, I sincerely thank you for your continued support and cooperation. Please enjoy the holiday recess and a much deserved rest with your families. We look forward to welcoming our students back in January and hope that you have a safe, healthy, and responsible holiday season!

Thanks and Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph Gallo". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Ralph Gallo

Lead Person / Director



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To the TCCS Community,

On behalf of the TCCS Board of Trustees, I wanted to thank our entire community for your continued support as the pandemic rages on. Board members are, of course, all TCCS parents ourselves, so we understand the many challenges that our families have faced over the past few years. Thanks to your collective efforts and sacrifices, we have so far minimized the spread of COVID in our school. As cases rise in our greater community, we must remain vigilant, but rest assured, the Board is committed to keeping TCCS open and to providing a safe learning environment for our children.

I'd also like to extend a special thanks to our teachers and staff for their unwavering commitment to our students. They have shown up, both literally and figuratively, for our kids from the earliest days of the pandemic. Thank you also to our administration - Mr. Gallo, Ms. Torres, and Ms. Anders - who have had to make many tough calls during the pandemic but have always done so with the health and safety of our community in mind. Their leadership has steered us safely through the worst of the pandemic, and we appreciate all their hard work and dedication to the school.

I hope everyone has a wonderful winter break and we look forward to seeing you in 2022!

Julie Elliott
President, TCCS Board of Trustees

DEAR TCCS FAMILIES...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR GENEROUS
HOLIDAY GIFTS AND WELL WISHES!



HAVE A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE HOLIDAY RECESS!

- *Mr. Gallo*
- *Ms. Torres*
- *Ms. Anders*
- *Ms. Shenita*
- *Ms. Yvonne*