

Foundations Upper Valley

An S^D Associates special education school, 147 Main Street, Windsor, VT 05089
Program Phone: 802-674-4428 Fax: 802-674-4439 Website: www.sdplus.org/where

8/10/2021

Dear Foundations Staff and Families:

As you know from my recent email, the VT Agency of Education (AOE) has asked us to take a census of students currently eligible for vaccination to determine the rate of vaccination among the student body within our building. We have nearly completed this process and we will not have the necessary numbers reach the 80% benchmark that would allow us to continue with more relaxed masking requirements.

Even though our official first day of school is not until August 30, in accordance with the spirit of the AOE/DOH guidance and in recognition of the increasing rates of COVID-19 both in vaccinated and unvaccinated populations, we are going to be returning to mask requirements for all staff and students in our community until we either meet the 80% benchmark or new guidance is issued. Please let me/Megan know if/when your child's vaccination status changes so we can continue to keep our community safe in the least restrictive way possible.

The masking requirement will go into effect for everyone in our building, including visitors, beginning tomorrow, Wednesday August 11, 2021, so please send your child to school with a mask (and a clean spare). I am again attaching the link to the official AOE guidance here for those who may have missed it. <https://education.vermont.gov/sites/aoe/files/documents/edu-vdh-memo-french-levine-advisory-covid19-prevention-measures-fall-2021.pdf>

As noted in my previous email and indicated in the guidance, we will also be returning to using the *COVID-19 in Pediatric Patients (Pre-K-Grade12) Triage, Evaluation, Testing and Return to School* flow chart (link to this document is embedded in the document linked above) when making decisions about when ill students must be excluded from participation at school. We will also be continuing to do contact tracing.

As always, don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,
Jes

Jessica Speckert, MA, BCBA, LBA
Foundations Head of School

Additional information for FUV staff:

Going forward, we will not be requiring (but still supplying) surgical masks. You are welcome to use your cloth facial coverings from home or to ask Megan for a couple of our lovely S^D masks. In addition, you may continue carrying your (sealed) beverage containers with you when working on the floor and briefly unmask to take a sip or a bite when working with students.

Please continue to report your close contacts daily.