

12/23/21 Updated Letter: Covid Positive Cases

Dear Carlos Rosario Community,

We have learned that ten individuals who were recently on campus during their infectious period have tested positive for the COVID-19 coronavirus. Four individuals were at the Harvard Street Campus on December 21st, one individual was at the Harvard Campus on December 22nd, and five individuals were at the SG Campus on December 22nd. We are letting you know as much as we can while protecting individual privacy.

The individuals who tested positive are quarantining and doing well. We wish them a safe recovery and are thinking about them and all members of our School community as we continue to endure the global pandemic.

Thankfully, **no school community members came in close contact with the individuals during their visits to campus.** (Under CDC and DC Health guidelines, close contact is defined as being less than 6 feet away for 15 minutes or longer cumulatively within a 24-hour period.) We are following DC Health guidance on cleaning and disinfecting regularly and following any instance of COVID-19 on campus.

We are in communication with DC Health to determine if there are any other appropriate steps to be taken. We will let you know if we have additional information to share with you.

Please see attached sheet with reminders on School health and safety protocols, and COVID-19 School data for your information.

With an increase of cases locally and nationally following the Thanksgiving holiday, and with the Omicron variant now in DC, it is important to remain vigilant and follow our School safety measures including masking, distancing, and hand hygiene. With the winter break approaching and many planning to travel and visiting friends and family, please be safe and consider the [CDC's tips for safe holiday gatherings](#).

Sincerely,

Allison R. Kokkoros

Update on School vaccinations & on-campus asymptomatic testing of students:	
We wanted to take the time to share with you how we are doing:	
1. Employee vaccination rate (<i>updated</i>):	94%
2. Employee vaccination or approved exemption rate: [1]	100%
3. Student vaccination rate (<i>reflects November data; to be updated at end of December</i>): [2]	84%
4. On-campus asymptomatic testing: [3]	918 saliva-based PCR tests conducted

	Of those: 12 positive tests, 2 inconclusive tests ^[4]
5. # COVID cases reported to the School in the last 14 days: ^[5]	27 reported cases (14 at HSC, 13 at SGC)
6. Subset of those people who were on-campus during infectious period (i.e., 48 hours before symptoms or positive test):	16 of 27 reported cases (8 at HSC, 8 at SGC)

School Health & Safety Measures – at all times on campus:

Reminder about some of the safety measures we have in place to protect our school community from the COVID-19 virus:

- **Face Masks:** We continue to require everyone to wear face masks on campus and to maintain 6-foot social distancing. Please do your part to maintain distances especially when eating or drinking. Please also make sure to wear your mask properly – this includes having it fit snugly over your face and nose.
- **Physical Distancing:** If your work requires you to be closer than **6 feet** from others more than momentarily, please let the on-duty Officer in Charge or the School COVID Points of Contact Alice-Ann Beachy and Kristine Dunne know so that they can provide you with additional protective equipment, such as a face shield or plexiglass barrier.
- **Hand hygiene:** Reminder to frequently wash your hands or use hand sanitizer, especially when touching high-touch surfaces.
- **If you feel sick, do not come to campus. If you begin to feel sick while on campus,** please leave immediately. This is important to keep everyone safe as the pandemic continues.
- **Report to HR or School COVID Points of Contact** about COVID positive cases or symptoms. Unvaccinated individuals must also quarantine for 10 days following travel or exposure to positive individuals.
- We continue to closely monitor the DC government to ensure that we follow the latest guidance for protecting our community members from COVID-19 while at the school.
- **For more information on the School’s health and safety protocols,** the School’s Continuous Education Plan – including health & safety – is available on our website and DC Health guidance is available at <https://coronavirus.dc.gov>. Please contact the School COVID Points of Contact if you would like more information or if you have any questions. We also want to remind everyone that we all play a role in maintaining a safe school environment – keep up the great work!

Current Guidance for Individuals in Close Contact with Individual who tests Positive and/or is Symptomatic:

In the event that there are Close Contacts identified in the School community, here is the current guidance for Close Contacts:

- The current guidance for everyone during the pandemic: Always self-monitor for any symptoms and consult your healthcare provider should you have any questions especially if you are a high-risk individual. If anyone develops COVID-19 symptoms, they should stay home, consult with their healthcare provider, and tell their supervisor or Human Resources as soon as possible.

- For vaccinated individuals who were in close contact with a COVID-positive individual, they are free to continue their normal activities including work so long as they remain free of symptoms.
- For unvaccinated individuals who were in close contact and have no symptoms: They must stay at home and quarantine for at least 10 days after exposure. Even after ending quarantine, DC Health recommends they continue to self-monitor for symptoms for 14 days after exposure, and to continue to quarantine until that date if they are able.
- For anyone who experiences symptoms (whether or not they are already vaccinated), they must:
 - Contact healthcare provider.
 - Stay home and quarantine for:
 - At least 24 hours after the fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication (e.g. Motrin, Tylenol) and symptoms have improved; AND
 - At least 10 days after symptoms first appeared, whichever is later. (DC Health indicates that some individuals may have a longer quarantine period per DC Health or their healthcare provider.)

[1] The employee vaccination rate data includes all current active employees (not including inactive employees or employees on extended leave).

[2] The student vaccination rate is based on self-reporting of students visiting campus at any time in the month of November. This data will be updated to include December data in early January.

[3] Our on-campus asymptomatic testing program is for weekly testing of students attending classes in-person or hybrid, with an aim of 20% students being tested per week. This testing is required by DC law and funded through an OSSE grant. Employees who have an approved exemption from the vaccine mandate are required to test every week; they can test on-campus or elsewhere if they prefer at their own cost. There are a few additional employees who have opted in to get tested on campus, which they are welcome to do even though it is not part of a regular employee testing program at this time.

[4] Individuals who receive inconclusive test results are asked to retest and share test results with the School.

[5] The total # of COVID cases reports in last 14 days includes all School community members who inform the School of their COVID positive status. This may include, for example, employees or students who are fully virtual at this time and have not been to campus in weeks or months.

Allison R. Kokkoros
Chief Executive Officer

