



Dear SCA Community,

It is hard to believe it is almost Spring Break! It is even harder to believe that we have been managing the COVID-19 pandemic for an entire year. I pray everyone has a safe, restful, and wonderful Spring Break; it is certainly well-deserved.

As mentioned last week, the metrics continue to improve and allow us to feel comfortable with a cautious relaxation of some of the protocols that are currently in place. The first half of this email will address those, all of which will take place with your return from Spring Break (March 22). The second half of this email is your weekly COVID cases update (there are currently no current cases at SCA).

We have already been able to increase many of the activities we participate in on campus and increase some of the gatherings. This has been refreshing. We will continue to monitor the metrics and we are hopeful to have more specific relaxation of some of the restrictions over time. Again, we have done this cautiously, slowly, and measured. All changes are contingent on the ongoing and anticipated improvement with the metrics, with an understanding that we could return to increased restrictions and safety measures were we to have another significant spike. Please also be aware that our extra cleaning measures will continue as is. **The following are the changes taking affect beginning Monday, March 22:**

- **Masks:**

Beginning March 22, masks on campus will be *optional* in most areas.

Students will still be required to bring a mask to school (e.g., in their backpacks) so they have one available if required in a specific area or for a specific circumstance. We do have faculty on campus who either are high risk, live with someone who is high risk, or have other extenuating circumstances. If those faculty choose to require masks in their classrooms, students are expected to honor that. Families who have high risk households or ongoing concerns are also encouraged to continue having their children wear masks.

- **Remote Learning Option (RLO):**

We are beginning to phase this out. Beginning in the 4th quarter, those who are in the RLO and have been in it on a long-term basis will be permitted to continue in the program. Others still can elect RLO at this time up until the start of 4th quarter. At the start of the 4th quarter, there will not be an opportunity for “temporary RLO”. Once the 4th quarter begins, we will freeze future enrollments (with the exception of SCA required quarantines due to exposures or positive cases). Students who have been in the RLO for extended periods may return to the classroom at any time their families decide. Unless we see a significant return of COVID-19, the RLO program will end at the conclusion of the school year.

- **Student Gatherings and Events on Campus:**

As mentioned, we have slowly been able to increase our student gathering opportunities on campus. We continue to consider each gathering on a case-by-case basis, but recently we have reincorporated chapels, assemblies, musical performances, and the like. Assuming we continue to see the improvements, you will see more of these. We have even been able to increase some performances with limited parent/guest seating available. *Having adult visitors on campus still creates additional risk and thus we will be a little more cautious about rolling this out over time but are hopeful to have this back to normal in the fall.* Each event is considered individually, and *masks will still be required for visitors on campus* for the time being. You will hear from your specific teacher or principal regarding future events and how they will be handled.

- **Athletics:**

We will continue to follow the AIA guidelines for athletics, fans, and mask policies.

We do anticipate a jump in the numbers after Spring Break due to the students being around additional family and because of travel. While we anticipate some of this, we will watch this closely to determine if it is enough to warrant any adjustment. *We do ask all families to be cautious during the break, and to make sure not to send your children back to school if they show any signs or symptoms.*

To keep you informed of any standing cases, the following contains new information as well as an update on previous information. This may not directly relate to you or your family but is an effort to keep you informed. ***While much of this content is repetitive, please see bullets below for anything new related to cases.*** These relate only to current cases of SCA students, faculty, or staff. We have been very blessed to keep these to a minimum and appreciate your help to reduce your exposure outside of SCA.

We ask that you continue to follow health protocols and keep all children home with any symptoms, signs of illness, or if they have been exposed to anyone with COVID-19. We ask that everyone respectfully and graciously complies as we all work together to do all we can to keep our campus safe and open.

When a positive case is reported, we work directly with the County (representatives from the county assigned to us). Each decision about quarantines, whether individuals, sections, or other groups, as well as contact tracing, is made in partnership with them. We will continue to do this, and believe it is the most dependable and consistent way to handle each case. We will continue offering the RLO for those at higher risk or in quarantine. For all of those in person, we will continue to implement our health and safety protocols that have been shown to be effective in keeping SCA safe.

Information on current cases at SCA:

- Pre-Elementary: No current cases.
- Elementary School: No current cases.
- Middle School: No current cases.
- High School: No current cases.

**All of those considered exposed have been quarantined and are aware of their approved return date. Students exposed are now able to return sooner (after only 7 days of quarantine) if they submit a negative test to the nurse under the new CDC guidelines.*

These are all the current standing cases at SCA. All other previous cases have returned from quarantine. When we are notified of anyone “exposed” outside of SCA, they are quarantined based on our protocols and guidance from the County. We apologize for the repetitive nature of this information but wish to keep you informed.

Our safety protocols, health procedures, and mask requirements will continue to be in place. Thank you for continuing to support the safety of our campus by reducing exposure outside of your home to all extents possible and supporting the protocols we have in place. Even in these challenging times, and perhaps especially in these challenging times, we are so blessed to be a part of this amazing community of Christ-followers, united in spirit.

May God continue to bless you and your families, and may we get through these times united and together in Christ!

In Him,

Dr. Hodges