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Dear ELC Families,

As of March 7, 2022, the Summit ELC will be moving to a mask optional policy. We do not make this decision lightly, and we know that families have a spectrum of opinions and priorities. However, we believe this change is what is best for our school community right now and for the children for their educational and emotional growth. We made this decision based on consultation with the Westfield Health Department, our Leadership Team, and the COS-SJCC Synagogue Reopening Committee. Our plan is outlined in detail here:

- Masks are optional for students and staff, regardless of vaccination status.
- All staff and students who prefer to wear a mask should continue to wear one.
- We will require masks to be worn in the following circumstances:
  - During periods of elevated community transmission – when Covid-19 Activity Level Index (CALI) is elevated, when levels are in the Orange and Red.
  - If over a 5 day span, our school community has a 5% incidence of individuals who both test positive for Covid-19. In this case, our entire school will be required to wear masks. Masks would be required for 5 consecutive days (when in the building).
  - If there is a case of Covid-19 in a particular classroom, the classmates that are not quarantined as a result of being vaccinated or having Covid-19 in the past 90 days must wear a mask for 5 days following the case identification.
  - After returning from isolation or quarantine: children ages 2 years and older and staff who return to childcare during days 6-10 of isolation or quarantine will be required to wear a mask even if vaccinated or if they had Covid-19 in the past 90 days.
    - Masks should be worn outdoors after completing a 5-day isolation/quarantine period (if applicable) during days 6-10.
  - Children ages 2 and older or staff who become ill with symptoms consistent with Covid-19 while in the center should wear a mask until they leave the premises (if a teacher has a suspicion that the symptoms may be COVID related, the parent will be called to determine the source of the illness and the kids will be masked until we confirm).

If you do not want your child to wear a mask in any of the above situations, you may choose to keep your child home. No virtual learning nor refunds will be made at that time. All children are required to bring a mask to school daily in case needed.

As always, we ask our parents to continue to keep sick children at home and report all positive Covid-19 cases in a household to our school administration to ensure proper protocols are being followed.

Thank you for your continued support as we navigate our next steps during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Respectfully,

Allison Tankel  
Amy Weinstock