

From: **Bloom Community School Information** <info@bloomcommunityschool.org>
Date: Tue, Feb 15, 2022 at 11:32 AM
Subject:
To: Bloom Community School Information <info@bloomcommunityschool.org>

Dear Bloom Families,

Greetings from The Bloom Community School Covid Committee! Over the past two years, the committee has effectively evolved Bloom's COVID policies and procedures to reflect changes in community transmission and hospitalization rates, as well as changes in K-12 guidance from the CDC, the IDPH, and the Mclean County Health Department. On behalf of the committee and our Board of Directors, we thank you for continued patience, flexibility, and trust as we continue to adapt to the changing conditions of the pandemic.

In conjunction with legal representation, the Bloom COVID Committee and Board of Directors has reviewed the Sangamon County Circuit Court case that issued a temporary restraining order against the enforcement of the Emergency Rules put into effect to limit the spread of COVID-19 issued by Governor Pritzker, the ISBE, and the IDPH. Bloom Community School is a private school and is not a named party to the lawsuit and thus the Sangamon County Circuit Court case has no bearing on our school policy. We will continue to monitor the situation, and will notify our school community about any changes in response to the ongoing appellate case as applied to our school. In the meantime, our indoor mask policy remains unchanged: Well-fitting masks are required indoors, but may be removed for eating provided distancing is observed and there is no talking while eating.

As we approach the last three months of the school year, we also see the importance of helping prepare our students who will be transitioning to the next class. Inter-class and inter-age mixing has been an important feature of Bloom since its inception, with substantial benefits to both academic and social development. **Given the recent improvements in community transmission conditions, we have decided to make the following changes to our outdoor policies beginning Wednesday, February 16:**

- Families will have the option to allow their children to remove their masks while outdoors.
- Teachers will have the option to allow outdoor mixing of classes provided students are wearing masks while mixing.
- Teachers, staff, and approved volunteers will also have the option of removing their own masks while outdoors.

If community transmission rates remain close to current levels or decline, we will allow the Sprouts and Blossoms class members to intermix indoors *while masked* starting March 1. This will facilitate

work on collaborative projects including a theatrical production. Indoor intermixing while masked will only be allowed for the Sprouts and the Blossoms Classes. There is no plan to allow indoor intermixing with the Pods class at this time.

Teachers will work with students in developmentally appropriate ways to address any student anxieties associated with these changes. Teachers and staff will continue to monitor and promote appropriate distancing while indoors and out.

Thank you for your continued attention to COVID-related safety procedures. Please contact us at info@bloomcommunityschool.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Bloom Community School Covid Committee

Bloom Community Board of Directors

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