



May 18, 2021

Dear Families and Spaulding Collaterals,

We hope this letter finds you and your families doing well and enjoying the beautiful weather. We would like to thank you all for being patient, understanding and flexible throughout the last year as it pertains to COVID protocols, restrictions, visits, remote learning and everything in between. Without the understanding and flexibility of the Spaulding community, this time would have been even more difficult to manage than it has been.

As you know, Spaulding's team has been following the guidelines of the Department of Public Health and the Department of Health and Human Services with regards to congregate care settings. While the federal and state guidelines have changed, we remain serious about your child's safety as well as that of our staff. While understanding there is a balance as it relates to loosening restrictions, we are committed to doing this in a systematic way. We continue to meet on a weekly basis to review the positivity rate within the state as well as the communities that surround Spaulding in order to make the safest decisions possible.

With the positivity rate declining, we will be moving to the next phase of opening up our campus. As of May 19, 2021, we will begin the process to allow our residential and day students to transition back to their original classrooms; therefore children will no longer be fully separated based on whether they are day or residential students. Residential students will be allowed to visit with each other on campus, enjoy the playground, and participate in activities with their peers. Mask wearing will remain in effect indoors for staff and students. When outdoors with the ability to socially distance, masks may be removed. Mask wearing will continue to apply to all on campus visits as well.

Additionally, we anticipate resuming home and off campus trips for our residential students by the end of June. As always, this decision is not made lightly and is subject to change based on DHHS/DPH guidelines and local positivity rate. Over the next few weeks, we will continue to monitor the positivity rate and will communicate again as we prepare to move to this next phase.

As always, we cannot thank you enough for your continued patience and flexibility as we have all weathered this pandemic together. We look forward to cautiously moving into the next phase of resuming a more normalized environment. Please do not hesitate to reach out to your assigned family worker for more detailed information.

Be Well,

***COVID Response Team, Spaulding Academy & Family Services***