

Dear KDS Families:

Good afternoon! We have much to be thankful for after another healthy week (NO new cases of COVID-19) at The King's Daughters' School!!

This week, we are resending our COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions (at the bottom of this email.) Also, if you had made plans for your student to leave campus over Summer Break, you received an email from me earlier today, and have had (or will have) a call from your Case Manager today as well regarding those plans.

There are three additional things we want to share with you this week:

**Update on Testing in Our Community.** COVID-19 testing in Maury County, TN now takes AT LEAST 7 days to receive results. Much of the nation is experiencing similar—or longer—delays in results. This presents serious complications, especially for students who might have symptoms and need to be tested. We are working on finding alternative testing, but for now, we are simply at the mercy of these extended result times.

**Break Week.** For Summer Break week, we will run special activities as follows:

**Main Campus.** Students will have a Camp Week, including a mobile petting zoo, jump house, and waterslide, all enjoyed by “closed groups” in houses.

**Center for Autism.** Students will run a regular schedule with extra special “Camp Week” activities culminating in a water slide.

**Alternate Schedule.** For the two weeks following Break, both our Main Campus and Center for Autism will run “alternate schedules” I want to share more information about these excellent schedules, which represent a full 6.5-hr school day, that have been developed by our educational leadership:

**Main Campus.** Students will remain with their “closed house groups.” Students will run a schedule with the following classes for two weeks: Math & English-Language Arts (with the students coming to the teachers in the school building, in dedicated classrooms), LifeSkills & Art (with the teachers coming into the houses to teach the students), PE and Recess on campus areas, and Activities of Daily Living (ADL) time led by instructional assistants in the house.

**Note:** Students who have travelled will be required to wear masks at ALL times (including in the residence halls) unless they are sleeping or outside playing.

**Center for Autism.** Students who do NOT travel will run a regular class schedule. Students who HAVE traveled will be in a self-contained group with individualized instruction.

**Battles & Rawles Outside Visits.** If your family member resides in Battles Place or Rawles House, we will begin offering on-campus, outdoor visits (masks required) beginning the week of July 27! We will be following the guidelines of the Dept of Health for nursing homes and extended care facilities for the

elderly. If you would like to schedule a visit with your family member in Battles Place or Rawles House, please contact your Case Manager.

Our Frequently Asked Questions are below, and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact your student's Case Manager. As always, thank you for entrusting your student to us, and have a great weekend!

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

- [What are the guidelines for returning to KDS after break?](#)
- [If my student leaves campus, do I have to have the negative result BEFORE I return him/her?](#)
- [When \(what date\) should I get my student tested, if s/he leaves campus?](#)
- [What if I just don't get the result before I return my student? Can I bring him/her back anyway?](#)
- [Why do I have to return my student on certain days?](#)
- [What do all the different colors mean on the calendar?](#)
- [Why can I not return/pick up/visit with my student on the weekends?](#)
- [Why can I not return/pick up/visit with my student on the "orange days" on the calendar?](#)
- [What is the "alternate instruction" that the calendar mentions?](#)
- [How many times per month can I come on campus to visit my student?](#)
- [Will my student have to wear a mask at KDS?](#)
- [Do I really have to fill out the COVID-19 Emergency Form, or can you make an exception on that for me?](#)
- [Why is KDS requiring parents to pick up positive COVID-19 students?](#)
- [Can I pay a staff member to stay with my student in my place?](#)
- [Will the local hospital or Dept of Health keep my student if s/he tests positive?](#)
- [If my child has ALREADY had COVID-19, do I have to have the test\(s\) before and after return?](#)
- [If my child has ALREADY had COVID-19, do I still have to follow the schedule?](#)
- [If I decide to take my student home for an extended break, for several months or more, can I get my tuition waived?](#)
- [Is there a chance that my child could get moved into another house \(or room at the CFA\) this Fall?](#)
- [Is there a chance that the other Breaks could be cancelled?](#)
- [Is there a chance that KDS could temporarily close this Fall?](#)
- [Will Battles and Rawles be allowed to have any visitation?](#)
- [What is the State of COVID-19 this week at KDS?](#)
- [What are the KDS Procedures again?](#)

### **What are the guidelines for returning to KDS after a break?**

If your student leaves campus for any time (even a few hours), the following applies to his/her return:

- Your student may ONLY return during the "Return Times" indicated on the new KDS Fall 2020 Calendar.
- Your student MUST have a negative COVID-19 result that has been received within 72 hours of their return to campus. (KDS will also test him/her within the first week of return.)
  - Students who have ALREADY had COVID-19 within the past 6 months and remain symptom-free are exempt from ONLY this one return requirement; [see below](#).
- Your student MUST have temperature logs accompany their return, indicating that s/he did NOT run an elevated temperature during their time off campus.
- Your student MUST wear a mask (including in residential areas when other students are around), remain in closed groups, and have his/her temperature taken for 14 days upon

- return. If at any time s/he has symptoms, s/he will be tested for COVID-19, and you if s/he is positive, you will be asked to implement your Emergency COVID-19 Plan.
- *Please note that students' housing may be changed so that those who are NOT traveling are living with OTHERS who are also not traveling, to reduce risk of exposure among those students. This type of housing is NOT guaranteed, and risk is never eliminated, but KDS will attempt to insulate students who are not traveling during the Fall 2020 Semester.*

**If my student leaves campus, do I have to have the negative result BEFORE I return him/her?**

Yes. If your student leaves campus at all, s/he will need to have a test AND a negative result before s/he returns. We realize this basically eliminates off-campus visits that are less than 72 hours long, and we are so sorry for that. However, we do feel that this is the most prudent policy. If you planned on taking your student off campus for less than 72 hours, we recommend that you schedule an on-campus visit during the Break Week. (Ie, instead of taking your student off-campus for the day to eat, plan on bringing lunch in, bringing in games, and having an outdoor visit instead!)

**When (what date) should I get my student tested, if s/he leaves campus?**

We are requesting the sample and results within the last 72 hours of return. (Ie, if you return on Friday, you would want to get tested on Tuesday.) Please keep in mind where your testing will occur, and how many days/hours it takes to receive a result, and if they are testing/getting results/communicating results over the weekend. If you are taking your student off-campus, we STRONGLY recommend that you pre-arrange for testing and communication of results BEFORE your visit.

**What if I just don't get the result before I return my student? Can I bring him/her back anyway?**

No, I'm very sorry, but we will not be able to allow any student to return without a negative COVID-19 test.

**Why do I have to return my student on certain days?**

We will isolate an entire house for a full 14 days after every student has returned... that means one student's travel plans greatly affect the rest of the house. We want to provide for connection with families, but we also want to allow houses to get back to a regular school schedule as quickly as possible after each Break. As a result, we must ask that all students be returned by a certain date so that the "closed groups & alternate instruction" can begin—and END!—within 2 weeks.

**What do all the different colors mean on the calendar?**

Basically, it means this:

- Green days: Days a student can return to campus.
- Yellow days: Days you can visit your student on campus. (No returns.)
- Orange days: Days the campus is CLOSED (no pickups, visits, or returns)

Remember, you can pick your student up on any green, yellow, or blue day... but s/he can only return on a green day.

### **Why can I not return/pick up/visit with my student on the weekends?**

It is taking a great deal of extra manpower and oversight to facilitate pickups, visits, and returns. Our weekends are really primarily direct-care staff and their supervisors, so we simply do not have the ability to facilitate that on the weekend. However, we have set up certain weekend pick up/visit/return days around each break, when administrative staff will be working to facilitate that on the designated days. Please see the Fall Calendar for those dates!

### **Why can I not return/pick up/visit with my student on the “orange days” on the calendar?**

When students have been off campus, our desire to completely isolate everyone as much as possible. The “orange days” on the calendar are either weekend days (see above) OR the two weeks after a break. Those are the weeks we will be in isolation with NO pickups, visits, or returns, so that we can ensure any potential exposure during the break time is limited to the students’ closed groups.

### **What is the “alternate instruction” that the calendar mentions?**

We are so excited about this! During the “orange weeks” when we are in closed groups (after breaks), we will be doing a new schedule that will allow us to remain in closed groups but still provide instruction. Although we are still ironing out the details of the alternate instruction weeks, here is what we DO know:

- Alternate instruction means a full school day, but in a different model
- Students will be in closed groups (with only their house or their floor)
- Students will come to the school/academic floors BY GROUP for some instructional times (functional academics, esp English/Language Arts & Math), with sanitization of those spaces in between groups
- Students will receive the remainder of their school day in other areas (outside, in their houses or floors, other designated and isolated spaces on campus); this would include Lifeskills, PE, Art, etc.

This alternate instruction allows us to have a structured school day but still ensure that students are isolated for maximum health and safety. Not only will this allow teachers to instruct students, but we have purchased additional software on both campuses to facilitate goalwork and data collection to ensure that all of our instruction—both alternate and traditional!—is working.

Also, during this two weeks, students who have been off campus will have an additional COVID-19 test, will have their temperatures taken multiple times per day, and will be required to wear face masks at all times (including in their residential areas, except when they are eating, sleeping, or bathing).

### **How many times per month can I come on campus to visit my student?**

Up to once per month, on a green or yellow day.

### **Will my student have to wear a mask at KDS?**

Yes. Students must wear a mask during the following times:

- At ANY time they are in the school building (or the academic floor at the CFA) for the entire Fall 2020 semester.
- If they go off-campus, for a full two weeks at all times (including in their houses/residential areas, unless they are showering, sleeping, or eating).
- Any other time it is deemed necessary for health and safety.

**Do I really have to fill out the COVID-19 Emergency Form, or can you make an exception on that for me?**

Yes. This form is required along with the contract for 2020-21 for all students who will be at KDS for the Fall 2020 Semester. We would love to make exceptions, but we are working hard to ensure we have policies that ensure for not only individual health and safety of students and staff, but also the continuity of programming at KDS.

**Why is KDS requiring parents to pick up positive COVID-19 students?**

We would love to be able to provide separate staffing and facilities for students who are ill, but we simply cannot for the full length of isolation required for COVID-19. We realize this is a tremendous sacrifice and burden for families, but it is truly the only way we can imagine providing stable staffing and facilities for the students who are healthy at any given time. We are pleased, however, to report that staff members and families who have cared for positive students have remained healthy and COVID-free if they are using PPE!

**Can I pay a staff member to stay with my student in my place?**

Again, we wish we had the ability to do this, but we simply do not have enough staff members and enough facility space to provide isolation for the full isolation period for students. It's not that our staff are not amazing and willing to go the extra mile... they are! But our desire to provide the maximum benefit for ALL students, which means we simply do not have enough staff to provide one-on-one care for an extended illness or isolation for ANY type of sickness, including COVID-19.

**Will the local hospital or Dept of Health keep my student if s/he tests positive?**

No. We have worked with our local hospital and health department, and they are recommending that our families have a plan to have parents or another family member provide care for students. Students would only be hospitalized if their symptoms warranted hospitalization and it was medically necessary.

**If my child has ALREADY had COVID-19, do I have to have the test(s) before and after return?**

No, if your student has tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 6 months, the Dept of Health has advised us that you will continue to receive positive results for at least 6 weeks, and potentially for up to 6 months. But because your student has already had COVID-19, s/he should not be susceptible to it again or able to pass it along for the short-term. Because we do not wish to waste resources, we will not ask for an additional test within 6 months of your student's initial positive COVID results. However, we WILL ask that your student wear a mask and follow the other guidelines for students who leave campus during a Break.

**If my child has ALREADY had COVID-19, do I still have to follow the schedule?**

Yes. Although we are waiving the requirement for the additional tests because our Dept of Health recommends that, these students should still follow the schedule and other Return Guidelines (ie, masking), so that we are acting in the most prudent manner possible and not taking unnecessary risks with this virus, which still holds so many unknowns.

**If I decide to take my student home for an extended break, for several months or more, can I get my tuition waived?**

During the Spring and Summer, KDS has offered some waivers for families if they had taken their students home for 4 or more weeks due to fear of COVID-19. We realize these are unprecedented times, and we are grateful to have been able to do this! However, the pandemic has also resulted in extraordinary expenses for KDS: PPE, overtime expenses, student activities, staff awards, increased cleaning and sanitization, and premium pay for staff members who volunteer to care for students who are positive until their families can arrive. We are SO blessed to have many resources and to have weathered these extraordinary items to well! However, it would be difficult for KDS to continue to offer tuition waivers. We will continue to offer a credit for two weeks' worth of tuition for any family who must pick up a positive student and care for him/her at home. If you anticipate the need to bring your student home long-term due to fear of COVID, and if we have not already spoken, please contact me so we can discuss your student's long-term needs.

**Is there a chance that my child could get moved into another house (or room at the CFA) this Fall?**

Yes, there is. KDS is working to insulate students who are NOT traveling at all during the Fall 2020 semester. We can NOT guarantee we can isolate those students from the ones who travel, nor can we ever eliminate risk! There is an inherent, enhanced risk of exposure for your student in a group living situation. However, if we are able to group students by potential travel exposure, we are hoping to do so.

**Is there a chance that the other Breaks could be cancelled?**

Yes. We are hopeful that doesn't happen, but it could. All breaks are optional (except Winter/Christmas), and we encourage families to allow students to remain on campus for the entire semester. If there are additional positive cases, esp after a Break, it is likely that KDS would cancel other breaks this semester.

**Is there a chance that KDS could temporarily close this Fall?**

We are implementing what we think are stringent guidelines in order to prevent that from happening! We can "never say never" with coronavirus. Our ability to remain open is DIRECTLY related to our ability to implement our guidelines with fidelity... it relies upon every family and every staff member to be successful! **With your help, we believe we can safely remain open this fall.** However, if at any point we felt we could not safely care for our students, we would take whatever measures were necessary for them.

**Will Battles and Rawles be allowed to have any visitation?**

Yes, we are working on creating outdoor-only visitation spaces and times (with plenty of PPE!) for our Battles Place and Rawles House residents, for families who want to pursue that. We realize their mental health means that we must find a way to make this happen!

### **What is the State of COVID-19 this week at KDS?**

First and most importantly, everyone is doing well!! KDS has had NO additional positive COVID-19 case in the past week. All of our students are doing well, and our procedures continue.

### **What are the KDS Procedures?**

For all locations, at all times:

- Students remain in isolation on the Main Campus, by house, with contact ONLY with their housemates.
- No visitors; no students off-campus.
- No cross-use of staff from other programs.
- Students' temperatures are taken at least daily.
- When students are in school, students must wear masks at all times. (Please be aware that not all students will be able to comply with this.)
  - If you would like for your student to have personalized or special masks, please send 5-6 of those masks, labeled, with your student by the first week of August.

If a student runs a temperature of 100.4 or higher:

- The student is taken for testing.
  - *Please note that testing is now taking a full 72 hours for return of results.*
- Upon testing, the student is isolated.
  - If staffing and facilities are available, the student is isolated in a separate location with a 1:1 until results are received. If staffing or facilities are unavailable, then the student will be isolated in his/her room until results are received.
- If the result is negative, then everyone resumes a normal schedule.
- If the result is positive, the following happens:
  - With the student:
    - Family is notified, and the student remains in isolation until family can arrive and arrange for pick up and isolation at home.
    - Staff members working with the student receive additional PPE (gowns, face shields, N95 masks).
    - Any staff members who must go into the home (ie, clinic staff) receive additional PPE (see above) to reduce potential cross-contagion.
    - Students are requested to wear masks. (Not all are able to comply.)
    - Staff members who are working in any environment where a student is or was positive are monitored closely for symptoms. Per guidance by the CDC and the South Central Tennessee Department of Health, they may continue to work if they are wearing PPE, monitoring their temperature closely, and are asymptomatic.
  - With the rest of the students in the house:
    - Students' families are notified, and the house remains in isolation (only interacting w/ the same students and staff) for the next 14 days.
    - The house the student WAS in receives professional sanitization.
    - The staff members in the house where the student WAS residing receive enhanced PPE (KN95 masks).
    - The students in the house where the student WAS residing are encouraged to wear masks. (Not all are able to comply.)

- Staff members who are working in any environment where a student is or was positive are monitored closely for symptoms. Per guidance by the CDC and the South Central Tennessee Department of Health, they may continue to work if they are wearing PPE, monitoring their temperature closely, and are asymptomatic.

The return policy for COVID-19 positive students is as follows:

- Per the CDC guidelines, students may come out of isolation 10 days after a positive result, provided they are symptom-free and fever-free for the last 72 hours.
- To return to KDS, a student must meet that CDC guideline PLUS one of these additional guidelines:
  - Student must isolate for 14 days, and can return to KDS on day 15 if all of above criteria have been met
  - Student COULD return on Day 11 if all of the above criteria have been met AND student receives an additional, negative COVID-19 test. *Please note our local health department has said that it is difficult to receive a negative COVID-19 test this soon, as a person may still be “sloughing off” the dead virus, which could result in an additional positive test even though the person is no longer contagious*

Day Students have the following guidelines:

- Students must take their temperatures EACH day before coming to school, and each weekend day. Temperatures must be given in writing or email to the student’s Case Manager each day the student is in school.
- Students MUST wear a face mask at ALL times.
- KDS will take the student’s temperatures each day, and if the student runs an elevated temperature, s/he will be isolated and ask to leave immediately and to not return until receiving a negative COVID-19 test or completing the “Return policy for COVID-19 positive students” listed above.

Additionally, the following guidelines pertain to all KDS staff:

- Staff members wear masks whenever working with students or other staff.
- All staff members use enhanced universal precautions.
- Staff members must take temperatures both at home (all have been issued personal thermometers) AND upon arriving at work.
- Testing for ANY staff member is always permitted at any time.
- Staff members who test for “peace of mind” but are asymptomatic may continue to work with proper PPE and temperature checks.
- Staff members who test due to symptoms must remain at home until a negative test is received (or if they are positive, until they are cleared by the Department of Health).

KDS recognizes that there is a need to continue with new enrollments, but to do so in a way that is responsible and safely isolates the new student and his/her new peers. As a result, the following guidelines have been set up for new enrollments:

- A new student MUST remain in isolation two weeks prior to arrival, with a temperature log showing no temperatures for at least two weeks prior to arrival.
- A student must obtain a negative COVID-19 test within the 72 hours before arriving at KDS.
- A student must wear a mask at all times for at least 14 days (including in common residential areas) and have temperatures taken daily for at least 14 days upon arrival.

- A student must have an additional COVID-19 test within the first week of arrival. A positive result will require implementation of the family's COVID-19 Emergency Plan.
- In the even of an emergency, a student COULD enroll without a negative COVID-19 test, but ONLY with the following additional precautions:
  - KDS must have the staffing AND the facilities to provide 1:1 isolation and care for the student for at least 4 days. Without these capabilities, the student may not enroll.
  - The student must a COVID-19 test immediately upon arrival, and the student may not be integrated into any other living situation without the negative COVID-19 test.
  - The student must receive another negative COVID-19 test within a week of the first test.
  - The student must wear a mask at all times (including in common residential areas) and have temperatures taken at least daily for at least 14 days.
  - Any student who utilizes this option must be expressly approved by the Executive Director, and approval is given only when there is no option whatsoever of the negative test prior to enrollment.

To date, KDS has received PERSONAL guidance and is following the guidance of each of the following entities and/or individuals:

- Tennessee Department of Health
- Dr. Mary Margaret Fills, Medical Epidemiologist for the TN Dept of Health
- Tennessee Department of Children's Services
- Maury Regional Medical Center
- South Central Tennessee Department of Health
- Maury County Department of Health

We also receive regular briefings and policy recommendations from the TN Departments of Education, Children's Services, and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. We are constantly seeking out additional guidance from the CDC and TN Department of Health, as well as local and state government officials as well. We have followed and will continue to follow all recommendations and guidelines.

- Following each Break, KDS will have "closed group" for 14 days, with alternate instruction offered during those times.
  - Alternate instruction will be coming to the school in closed groups for math and English/language arts, using alternating rooms to allow time for extra sanitation, and providing LifeSkills and PE and any other subject instruction in the houses or outside.
- If a student leaves at any other time, s/he cannot return until the next designated "return from *Note: The requirements for any pre- and post-return testing are waived for students who have tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 6 months, completed their isolation period from that time, and remain asymptomatic. These students are still asked to abide by the other visitation guidelines.*

I know this is a LOT of information, and thank you for your patience as we work to provide a school and environment that serves your student well.