

Covid Update for Spring Semester of 2021-2022

As we return to school for the second semester of the 2021-2022 school year, Covid concerns for our state and our community have been elevated by the new variant. The city of Indianola has reinstated a mask mandate that requires IA to implement mask requirements in all school buildings. Our area has seen a dramatic increase in cases of the new variant. The mask requirement will apply to vaccinated and non-vaccinated people that are in a situation where the recommended 3 foot social distancing is not possible. This will include indoor athletic events held on our campus. Administration is currently evaluating desk placement in classrooms in an effort to create separation of more than 3 feet for all students and has air purifiers in all classrooms, the gym, and multipurpose room. Administration is also looking at adjusting break times for junior high and high school to allow for proper distancing in the multipurpose room. This distancing cannot be achieved in hallways and common areas requiring that masks be worn at all times in these areas. The CDC has changed quarantine length from 10 days to 5 days which should be helpful to students and faculty who have been exposed to the virus.

IA, being inside the city, must comply with this order. Adjustments to this plan will be made as the requirements and recommendations change. The IA Covid committee which includes local medical professionals will continuously monitor this situation and make changes as the situation changes. IA continues to communicate with city leaders who tell us that this policy will be reviewed often and revised as needed. As always, the health and safety of our students is paramount in all IA plans and policies.

We understand that this mandate is not popular with many in our IA family, but our school is required to follow this mandate and we ask that everyone be in compliance at all times while on campus. We also ask that you be patient with our faculty and staff as this is not a decision made by IA and our compliance with the city mandate is not optional. We have been through a great deal in the last couple of years and faced a great deal of uncertainty, but we have managed to stay in school which is the most important thing for our students. Please be understanding and do your best to stay in compliance of this city requirement so that we can keep our students in the classroom this semester. The next few weeks could be very difficult and I ask that you all pray for our faculty and students as we return for the second semester.

Thank you for your understanding and support!

Charles Mason, Headmaster