

Science Language & Arts

January 8, 2021

Dear SLA Annex Families,

To clarify our protocols and avoid future short-notice requests, outlined below is a clear policy for testing protocols to support in-person learning at **SLA's Early Childhood Annex** through the rest of the year. We've sent a separate email with protocols for SLA's Main Campus.

While these protocols represent our lasting commitment to keep SLA's Main Campus fully open for in-person learning, we recognize that, based on our experience thus far, the pandemic environment may suddenly evolve at any time. We remain primed to respond to these changes as necessary by staying in touch with the feedback of our teachers, guidance from the state, and continuing to monitor and project the trajectory of COVID-19 spread.

SLA's Main Campus will remain fully open for in-person learning, but new, precautionary school closures will apply for the remainder of the school year **as long as the citywide, [seven-day average positivity rate remains above 6.5%](#).**

These precautionary closures do not apply to the SLA Annex, and Annex opening dates remain unchanged. However, we are implementing a precautionary testing protocol for Annex families. **Unless the positivity rate decreases to under 6.5% before Midwinter Recess (Feb 12-19), the following protocols are in effect for return to school on February 22, 2021:**

- All families and staff should complete a rapid COVID-19 test on Thursday, February 18, OR Friday, February 19, and to send the results to studentaffairs@slaschool.org by Saturday, February 20, 2021.
- Families who have not completed the testing requirement without making other arrangements with the Student Affairs Office (studentaffairs@slaschool.org) should remain home until they submit COVID-19 test results to the Student Affairs Office, or until Monday, March 8, 2021 (whichever comes first).

We will follow the same protocol for Spring Recess (March 29-April 2).

While the SLA Annex functions as a preschool, it is licensed as [an essential service as a day care](#), and will continue to remain open for the rest of the year (on its current published schedule) unless state regulations change. For this reason, we are permitting rapid COVID-19 testing in order to allow families time to meet these requirements within the timeframe, as we believe this option best allows us to address the issue of possible household mixing driving community spread (as it has for NYC since winter recess) while also maintaining families' access to this essential

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service. Our goal of full compliance best ensures that this protocol will allow us to confirm a safe level of community spread among students and teachers before returning to the Annex.

Please note that 14-day quarantine protocols with respect to restricted travel will still apply ([as posted on our website](#)). This remains the protocol that our teachers are comfortable with and that [remains supported as the safest protocol recommended by the CDC, even as alternatives have been permitted by state officials](#). We will send out a travel survey as each planned recess approaches.

We hope that this long-term protocol eases any concerns you may have about SLA's steadfast commitment to providing you with consistent, quality access to an onsite learning environment. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns about these protocols.

Best,

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Stanley Ramdhany
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