

Science Language & Arts

January 8, 2021

Dear Main Campus Families,

To support our community, we are now implementing special precautions immediately after extended school recesses for the rest of the year. These protocols will be in effect as long as the citywide, seven-day average positivity rate remains above 6.5% (using [NYC Department of Health statistics](#)).

This means that unless the positivity rate decreases to under 6.5% before February 12, all SLA PK to Grade 5 classes will be taught remotely for one week (February 22–26) immediately following Midwinter Recess. During the week of remote learning, we ask all families and staff to **complete a COVID-19 PCR test between Wednesday, Feb 24, 2021, and Friday, February 26, 2021**, and send the results to studentaffairs@slaschool.org before returning to school. Rapid antigen testing is permissible for children under the age of 5.

Following this period and completion of the testing protocol, students may return to school on-site on **Monday, March 1, 2021**. Families who have not completed the testing requirement without making other arrangements with the Student Affairs Office (studentaffairs@slaschool.org) should remain home for an additional week, and may return to school on Monday, March 8, 2021. Please note remote learning will not be offered to non-testing families during that week (March 1-5).

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

SLA's Main Campus intends to remain open for full-time, on-site learning for the rest of the 2020-21 school year unless directed to move to remote learning by the state due to a mandated closure or [due to a cluster zone designation](#).

These protocols are designed with respect to the growing evidence that household mixing during holidays is driving community spread, which was a major contributor to the case spike following winter recess. We urge you to follow the [CDC's guidance to avoid travel](#) and [to avoid indoor gatherings and stay home where reasonably possible](#) as positivity rates continue to rise, and to avoid indoor gatherings with individuals other than those in your households as much as possible. Note that after Thanksgiving Recess, it took up to two weeks for the increased spread to appear in the positivity rates; we anticipate similar occurrences in the coming weeks.

Please note that 14-day quarantine protocols with respect to restricted travel 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.

**Science, Language, & Arts International School
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We hope that this long-term protocol eases any concerns you may have about SLA's steadfast commitment to providing a safe, fully on-site learning environment. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Stanley Ramdhany
Science, Language & Arts
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