

February 11, 2022

Dear Families & Staff,

This week the Governor of Massachusetts announced that on Monday, February 28, state mask mandates would be lifted in schools and other public gathering spaces. We are pleased for our entire school community to be returning to a greater degree of normalcy. The teaching, learning, and nurturing of children have suffered due to the impact of COVID in our schools. We will continue to monitor the health situation in the weeks and months ahead and evolve our policies according to the best guidance from the medical community and federal, state, and local agencies.

We plan to adopt this mask-lift in the following ways:

Beginning on Monday, February 28:

- **Masking will no longer be required for children of any age in our schools and centers**
 - We will continue to support families who choose to have their children mask.
 - We continue to ask for your understanding that the right choices for some families are not the right choices for all families; we remain an inclusive, open, and respectful space to learn and grow.

- **Employees may choose not to mask if:**
 - Before or upon arrival at school for their first day of work each week, they produce a negative COVID test result (all forms of COVID tests accepted).
 - Please know that per federal law, all health insurers must reimburse policyholders for up to eight COVID tests per month.
 - Little Sprouts Human Resources will be offering guidance on submitting insurance reimbursements over the next several weeks.

We also want to remind everyone of two important truths:

- 1) Child care centers and schools like ours care for the nation's largest unvaccinated population against COVID, children under the age of five.
- 2) Our schools have noticed a collective decrease in common illnesses during mask mandates.

To continue doing our collective best for our youngest children and to help minimize the spread of germs, unmasked employees who begin to show minor cold symptoms during the school day will be asked to mask. Masks will continue to be available at school for employees and children (upon families' requests).

Our current COVID testing and school sick policies remain in place and unchanged at this time. As a convenience, attached is an updated COVID Testing and Isolation chart. Please remember that we are subject to state law and regulations set by local boards of health and the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC), which may require adjustments in our policy to remain in compliance and operating.

Please continue to connect with your school director for any further clarifications.

With gratitude,



David Post
CEO, Little Sprouts, LLC