

Dear ERS Community,

As numbers of Coronavirus cases continue to rise in the DC, Maryland, and Virginia metro area, we are asking everyone to stay vigilant. On our 12th week of in-person school, we are *thankful* that ERS has not had a case of COVID-19 among the children or staff to date. In response to the increased outbreaks in our area and to continue to protect our small community, ERS has adjusted our COVID-19 response protocols. Please read the contents of this letter carefully as it describes the additional measures we ask you to take to protect our community.

The holiday season is approaching, and we understand the pull of family traditions and the desire to celebrate with loved ones. If you plan to gather with people outside your household, please do it safely. Thanksgiving and Winter breaks will not look the same this year, but we will get through this unprecedented time as a community. If you choose to gather with family and friends from outside of your household, please keep in mind that this poses a potential risk to the ERS community. [Gatherings](#), large or small, are considered high-exposure activities.

In order to further protect our ERS community, we are adjusting our COVID-19 Guidelines to include the following:

**If your family plans to travel or gather locally with people from outside of your household, your child MUST stay home for 14 days or provide the school with a negative COVID test following the contact or travel.**

In addition to this new policy, we are asking all members of the ERS community to review the [COVID Guidelines & Family Acknowledgement](#) (and [update\\*](#)) signed at the beginning of the year and to share them with caregivers and others who are in close contact with your family.

**Remember, if you choose to travel or gather locally with people from outside of your household, you must adhere to the guidelines set forth in this letter, which includes a 14 day exclusion from school following the last day of contact/travel or providing the school with a negative COVID test.**

*For your convenience, you may wish to consult with these quick links to help you with your holiday decision making:*

- [Holiday Celebrations and Small Gatherings](#)
- [CDC's Travel During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [CDC's Travel Recommendations by Destination](#)
- [US COVID-19 Cases Reported to the CDC in the Last 7 Days, by State/Territory](#)

*Please take a moment to respond to this email, acknowledging that you have read and understand its contents.*

Thank you in advance for your help in making this a safe holiday season for all of us. We wish you the best and hope that you discover some new ways to create a memorable holiday and some new traditions along the way.

Warmly,  
Julie and the ERS Board of Directors

\*Illness policy in the "Update" document replaces the illness policy listed as the 4th bullet in the "Family Acknowledgement" document.