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April 13, 2021

Dear Parents,

As you are aware from the recent COVID-19 notifications sent over the past few weeks, Green Chimneys reflects the statewide trend in increased positive cases. We realize these notifications can be concerning and our adherence to New York State Department of Health contact tracing mandates have affected several of our students who have been required to quarantine.

We are working with staff to tighten and reinforce protocols on campus, while emphasizing the importance of maintaining vigilance at home where most of these positive cases have been contracted. We are reinforcing all masking, social distancing and capacity guidelines with staff and students, regardless of vaccination status. We are also taking advantage of the warmer weather to move as many activities and meals outside as possible.

We realize that vaccinations are an important solution to minimizing risk for everyone. Like all state school districts, Green Chimneys does not mandate vaccinations, but we are strongly encouraging staff members to get vaccinated as soon as possible. We are alerting staff to available vaccination clinics and opportunities and in late March, we worked with our pharmacy to host a vaccination clinic on campus where trained pharmacists administered vaccinations to 100 Green Chimneys staff members.

As we continue to follow state mandates on campus, we are reminding staff to use the same precautions in their personal lives. Please reinforce them with your families as well:

- Wear a mask (covering mouth and nose) and maintain social distancing guidelines of at least six-feet regardless of your vaccination status.
- Seek opportunities to have your child vaccinated as soon as possible for children ages 16 and older.
- Avoid large gatherings, especially if people will not be wearing masks or social distancing.
- Continue daily self-screenings before sending your child to school.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to supporting the health and safety of the Green Chimneys community. We appreciate your continued partnership and perseverance. And we are grateful for your commitment to your child's success.

Thank you,

Ed Placke, Ed.D.

Ed Placke

**Executive Director**