

August 26, 2021

To all Green Chimneys Staff:

As you are aware, we have had a recent outbreak of COVID cases on our campuses. Following three months of almost no infections, this is disappointing and somewhat frightening. Added to this, is the fact that the vast majority of the new cases are with people who have been vaccinated.

This memo is to provide you with some information that may help you understand what is happening a bit better and will hopefully alleviate some of the anxiety associated with this phenomenon.

Here is some information that we have learned from our current contact tracing and from our discussions with the Department of Health:

- The Delta variant appears to be the major cause of most of the new cases
- This variant is highly contagious as we have seen from our cases at Green Chimneys
- The symptoms for vaccinated individuals tend to mimic cold or allergy symptoms. These include sore throat, running nose, cough and sneezing. Additional symptoms may include loss of smell and stomach distress (vomiting & diarrhea).
- The very good news is that these symptoms are mild, pass quickly and do not require serious medical intervention, particularly with vaccinated individuals. To date, none of our positive vaccinated cases has required COVID medical interventions and none has resulted in a need for hospitalization.

As a result of this uptick in infections, we have re-instituted the use of masks indoors for all. We have delayed the opening of school and once again restricted visitors and volunteers from campus. We are again asking those who can work from home to do so. Everyone must continue to screen themselves each day before coming to work and to engage in safe health practices while on campus and in the community.

We are working closely with the Putnam Department of Health to employ any other measures that can help stop the spread of infections on our campuses. We are going to have some rapid tests on hand to be able to do some quick screening of staff or children when necessary. We are also in the process of purchasing an instrument that will allow us to quickly test for COVID, flu and strep at our Health Center eliminating the need to use outside laboratories.

We know this is a frightening time and we believe that our efforts will help stop the current spread of infections and help keep our campus safe. We have been incredibly resilient and successful to date and appreciate everyone's efforts to continue this trend.

Stay well,

Steve & Leeanne

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