



Masking Update

May 17, 2021

Dear OSA Families,

In RI, starting on Tuesday, May 18th, vaccinated individuals will no longer have to wear masks; however, this does not apply to the school setting. The CDC recommends that schools continue to follow the same policies and procedures that we were put in place at the beginning of the school year (CDC, *Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools Through Phased Prevention*¹). **Therefore, for the remainder of the school year, all students and staff will still have to wear a mask while in the school building.** While the majority of our staff and a small number of students have been vaccinated, not all students will have the opportunity to receive the vaccine before the end of the school year. In order to maintain the safest environment possible, masks must continue to be worn.

If you are interested in having your student aged 12+ vaccinated, a COVID-19 vaccination clinic for students has been planned for Saturday, May 22nd, 10 AM to 3 PM, and will take place at the Cranston East High School. Students 16+ can schedule themselves, while those under 16 will need an adult to consent and accompany them to the appointment. You can schedule an appointment via this link <https://www.vaccinateri.org/appointment/en/reg/1662952604>.

You can also find appointments at many local pharmacies or at state-run facilities. Visit www.vaccinateri.org/ for a complete list of vaccination sites.

Thank you for your understanding,
Ocean State Academy

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2021, May 15). *Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools Through Phased Prevention*. COVID-19. www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html#fully-vacc