

## Use of Masks and other COVID measures in our Schools Update as from May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022

Dear Parents, Guardian, Students and Staff,

Following the press conference held by the Minister for Health and the Superintendent for Public Health when major changes to the national COVID measures were announced and which will come into force on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022, kindly note the following update to our circular issued on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022.

### Masks

**As from May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022, we strongly recommend the wearing of face masks at all times in school. The updated guidelines for schools issued last week by the Health Authorities state clearly that “wearing a mask is an effective means of preventing viral spread to others in conjunction with maintaining an adequate physical distance from others” (Ministry of Health, Guidelines for the Education Sector, Section 5, April, 2022).**

However, following the Health Authorities’ decision to remove the obligatory use of masks from most sectors of society, including schools, as from May 2<sup>nd</sup> the wearing of masks will not be obligatory in our schools. We will continue to strongly recommend their use. In this sense we appeal to the sense of responsibility of all to retain the use of masks as appropriate while our schools will clearly respect the right of all to make their own decisions in this regard.

We appeal to this sense of responsibility especially in situations where physical distancing may be problematic, for example in the work of students working with Learning Support Educators (LSEs). Despite being asked in the school health guidelines to keep a physical distance of 2 metres from students, many LSEs very often do not do so to better support and help the students in their care. In such cases, and in other similar circumstances where social distancing may be problematic, we strongly appeal that the use of masks is retained.

We also reserve the right to insist on the use of masks when taking decisions on the organisation of events for large groups of students and/or parents.

### COVID protocols

**Kindly also please note that the respective COVID protocols in each of our schools are still in place and need to be always followed rigorously by all.** These protocols follow the Guidelines for Schools issued by the Health Authorities. Please find some time to go over the respective protocols for each school once again to reacquaint yourself with the measures.

Please remember that:

- Students and staff are strictly **not** to attend school if they have any COVID like symptoms, even very mild ones.

- Students and staff who are diagnosed with COVID are to inform their respective school contact person as per the procedure used to date during this scholastic year.
- Social distancing must be kept at all times.
- Students need to remain within their class bubble according to the protocol within their school.
- Temperature checks will continue to be taken on entry to school.
- Hand washing and hand sanitizing are to take place frequently.
- The use of face masks is strongly recommended.
- Food and drink are strictly not to be shared.
- All other COVID 19 measures implemented by the school will continue to apply as previously.

## Update

Please note that, following the changes to COVID measures coming into force on May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022, we will no longer be informing parents and staff when a COVID case is reported in a particular class. Instead, we will be issuing a weekly update for each school giving a general update of the COVID situation in the school for that week. We have always been completely transparent and open with parents and staff about the COVID situation and we intend to continue do so, within the context of the changed circumstances which result from the amendments to the COVID measures which will be introduced on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

For any further clarification or query, please feel to contact your respective Head of School or write to me directly on [stephen.cachia@lasallemalta.edu.mt](mailto:stephen.cachia@lasallemalta.edu.mt)

I am sure that we will all continue to work together and co-operate to face the COVID challenge successfully in our school communities.

Best regards,



Stephen Cachia  
Director of Educational Mission  
La Salle Malta

27<sup>th</sup> April, 2022

## **Użu ta' Maskri u miżuri oħra tal-COVID fl-Iskejjel tagħna**

### **Aġġornament mit-2 ta' Mejju, 2022**

Għeżież Ġenituri, Kustodji, Studenti u Staff,

Wara l-konferenza stampa li saret mill-Ministru għas-Saħħa u s-Supretendent għas-Saħħa Pubblika meta tħabbbru bidliet kbar fil-miżuri nazzjonali tal-COVID u li se jidhlu fis-seħħ fit-2 ta' Mejju 2022, gentilment innota l-aġġornament li ġej għaċ-ċirkulari tagħna maħruġa fil-21 ta' April 2022. .

### **Maskri**

**Mit-2 ta' Mejju 2022, nirrakkomandaw bil-qawwa l-ilbies ta' maskri tal-wiċċ il-ħin kollu fl-iskola. Il-linji gwida aġġornati għall-iskejjel maħruġa l-ġimgħa li għaddiet mill-Awtoritajiet tas-Saħħa jiddikjaraw b'mod ċar li "l-ilbies ta' maskra huwa mezz effettiv biex jiġi evitat it-tixrid virali lil ħaddieħor flimkien maż-żamma ta' distanza fiżika adegwata minn oħrajn" (Ministeru tas-Saħħa, Linji Gwida għas-Settur tal-Edukazzjoni , Taqsima 5, April, 2022).**

Madankollu, wara d-deċiżjoni tal-Awtoritajiet tas-Saħħa li jitneħħa l-użu obligatorju tal-maskri mill-biċċa l-kbira tas-setturi tas-soċjetà, inklużi l-iskejjel, mit-2 ta' Mejju l-ilbies tal-maskri mhux se jkun obligatorju fl-iskejjel tagħna. Aħna se nkomplu nirrakkomandaw bil-qawwa l-użu tagħhom. F'dan is-sens nappellaw għas-sens ta' responsabbiltà ta' kulhadd biex iżommu l-użu tal-maskri kif xieraq filwaqt li l-iskejjel tagħna jirrispettaw b'mod ċar id-dritt ta' kulhadd li jieħu d-deċiżjonijiet tiegħu f'dan ir-rigward.

Nappellaw għal dan is-sens ta' responsabbiltà speċjalment f'sitwazzjonijiet fejn id-distanza fiżika tista' tkun problematika, per eżempju fil-ħidma tal-istudenti li jaħdmu mal-Learning Support Educators (LSEs). Minkejja li fil-linji gwida tas-saħħa għall-iskejjel jintalbu jżommu distanza fiżika ta' 2 metri mill-istudenti, ħafna LSEs ħafna drabi ma jagħmlux dan biex jappoġġjaw u jgħinu aħjar lill-istudenti fil-kura tagħhom. F'każijiet bħal dawn, u f'ċirkostanzi oħra simili fejn id-distanza soċjali tista' tkun problematika, nappellaw bil-qawwa li l-użu tal-maskri jinżamm.

Nirriżervaw ukoll id-dritt li ninsistu fuq l-użu ta' maskri meta nieħdu deċiżjonijiet dwar l-organizzazzjoni ta' avvenimenti għal gruppi kbar ta' studenti u/jew ġenituri.

### **Protokoll COVID**

Jekk jogħġbok innota wkoll li l-protokoll COVID rispettivi f'kull waħda mill-iskejjel tagħna għadhom fis-seħħ u jeħtieġ li dejjem jiġu segwiti b'mod rigoruż minn kulhadd. Dawn il-protokoll jsegwu l-Linji Gwida għall-Iskejjel maħruġa mill-Awtoritajiet tas-Saħħa. Jekk jogħġbok sib ftit ħin biex terġa' tgħaddi mill-protokoll rispettivi għal kull skola biex terġa' tiffamiljarizza ruħek mal-miżuri.

Jekk jogħġbok ftakar li:

- L-istudenti u l-istaff mgħandhomx jattendu l-iskola jekk ikollhom xi sintomi ta' COVID, anke dawk ħfief ħafna.
- L-istudenti u l-istaff li jkollhom test pożittiv tal-COVID għandhom jinfurmaw lill-persuna ta' kuntatt tal-iskola rispettiva tagħhom skont il-proċedura użata s'issa matul din is-sena skolastika.
- Id-distanza soċjali trid tinżamm il-ħin kollu.
- L-istudenti jridu jibqgħu fil-bubble tal-klassi tagħhom skont il-protokoll fl-iskola tagħhom.
- Se jkomplu jsiru kontrolli tat-temperatura mad-dhul l-iskola.

- Il-ħasil tal-idejn u s-sanitizzazzjoni tal-idejn għandhom isiru ta' spiss.
- L-użu ta' maskri tal-wiċċ huwa rakkomandat ħafna.
- L-ikel u x-xorb m'għandhomx jinqasmu bejn student u ieħor.
- Il-miżuri l-oħra kollha tal-COVID 19 implimentati mill-iskola se jkomplu japplikaw bħal qabel.

## **Aġġornament**

Jekk jogħġbok innota li, wara l-bidliet fil-miżuri tal-COVID li daħlu fis-seħħ fit-2 ta' Mejju 2022, mhux se nkomplu ninfurmaw lill-ġenituri u lill-istaff meta jiġi rrapportat każ tal-COVID fi klassi partikolari. Minflok, se noħorġu aġġornament ta' kull ġimgħa għal kull skola li jagħti aġġornament ġenerali tas-sitwazzjoni tal-COVID fl-iskola għal dik il-ġimgħa. Dejjem konna kompletament trasparenti u miftuħa mal-ġenituri u l-istaff dwar is-sitwazzjoni tal-COVID u biĥsiebna nkomplu nagħmlu dan, fil-kuntest ta' ċirkostanzi mibdula li jirriżultaw mill-emendi għall-miżuri tal-COVID li se jiddaħħlu fit-2 ta' Mejju.

Għal aktar kjarifika jew mistoqsija, jekk jogħġbok ikkuntattja lill-Kap tal-Iskola rispettiv tiegħek jew iktbilli direttament fuq [stephen.cachia@lasallemalta.edu.mt](mailto:stephen.cachia@lasallemalta.edu.mt)

Jiena ċert li lkoll se nkomplu naħdmu flimkien u nikkooperaw biex niffaċċjaw l-isfida tal-COVID b'suċċess fil-komunitajiet tal-iskola tagħna.

L-isbaħ tisljiet,



Stephen Cachia  
Direttur tal-Missjoni Edukattiva  
La Salle Malta

27 ta' April, 2022