



8501 Cleary Boulevard
Plantation, FL 33324
p. 954.577.9701
f. 954.472.6659

www.andoveracademy.net

Omicron Update II January 22nd 2022

As we navigate through the latest variant, we want to give our parents some insight into our rationale and future plans in dealing with this pandemic. In an effort to minimize classes quarantining, we are delaying normal transitions - so if a student is transitioning from Young Toddlers to Toddlers we would normally have the student nap with the new class and gradually spend half a day with the new class before fully transitioning - because of possible exposure a student who is transitioning would cause TWO classrooms to quarantine instead of just one; in light of this we are delaying normal transitions until the end of January or early February when it is projected that Omicron's peak is behind us.

We were planning on letting parents back in the building to some degree when Delta was receding and had January 2022 as a target date to begin trialing a staggered approach. We envision that once we start to let parents back in the classrooms it will be on a start/pause basis depending on any future variants OR how CDC guidelines treats exposures and cases. IF we are under the same rules/guidelines we are under now and were to retroactively apply our plans - parents would be allowed back in the classrooms October, November, and through the Middle of December, but once this wave started in the middle of December, we would put a pause and go back to a Code Red or Purple.

Parents have been asking about online or virtual classes if we go to a Code Black or if a classroom is quarantined. The reason we are hesitant with virtual classes is because not all of our students have internet access or both parents work from home and both use computers (or a sibling too) and there isn't another device, or both parents are working from home on ZOOM and they don't have the internet speed to handle 3 simultaneous ZOOM conferences. Another factor is data caps - at the height of the pandemic, Internet Service Providers paused enforcing a data cap, but all major ISPs have now resumed enforcing it and of course as FaceTime, ZOOM, streaming, etc. has become more popular, many of our families cannot afford the overage fees. We do not want to contribute to the education inequality that is already prevalent (<https://www.vox.com/2020/4/9/21200159/coronavirus-school-digital-low-income-students-covid-new-york>). We will try and give out handouts or email scanned PDFs that is easy to view and download with minimal bandwidth and can even be viewed on a mobile device. Any parent who cannot access at all can always call us and we will arrange something!

We know it has been over 2 years since some of you have signed the original COVID forms, but we want to reiterate that it is IMPERATIVE that you notify us immediately if a household member or close contact has tested positive, we also want to emphasize that having your student test negative after exposure before 5 days and/or without isolating from the positive individual basically makes that negative result null and void. We will be revising our COVID forms after having it approved by our Health Council since there has been updated guidelines and we expect more updates from the CDC once this latest wave recedes.



8501 Cleary Boulevard
Plantation, FL 33324
p. 954.577.9701
f. 954.472.6659

www.andoveracademy.net

We are aware of how stressful it is being a parent of a child or children who are under 5, especially with the news constantly saying things like this is a “pandemic for the unvaccinated” the vast majority of our student population is under 5 and are ineligible for the vaccine. We also have students who are under 2 and cannot mask. It is stressful for us too! We were not initially included in a vaccine priority group with K12 teachers, it looks like we are getting left out again with tests (<https://www.cnn.com/2022/01/12/politics/school-testing-covid-19-biden-administration/index.html>). Sometimes it is cathartic to know that other parents are dealing with the same issues, some links are below that may help:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/12/opinion/parents-school-omicron.html>

<https://slate.com/technology/2022/01/kids-under-5-vaccine-parents.html> (WARNING: explicit language)

We are also cognizant of the long-term ramifications and consequences these drastic measures have done to our students and the seismic toll it has had on their childhood and development

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/04/briefing/american-children-crisis-pandemic.html>

Our masking policy is recommended but not required UNLESS we are in a TEMPORARY Code Purple which for an interim period because of the high rate of cases in our community masking is required for identified classrooms. We are also trying our best to REMAIN open because we know how much school was missed and we are aware that some of our students don't have any siblings or peers their age outside of school. Hindsight is 20/20 but we will try our best to course correct and learn as we go along. Broward County, the CDC, health experts, etc. have infinitely more resources and qualifications than us and have made mistakes, we will too...but we, just like our students will learn from them!

and some good news on the projections of Omicron...we will get through this!

<https://twitter.com/ashishkjha/status/1484012918635220995>

<https://www.clickorlando.com/news/local/2022/01/19/cdc-data-shows-significant-drop-in-new-covid-cases-in-florida/>

<https://twitter.com/WPLGLocal10/status/1483539945323208706>