



Dear KIPP Colorado Team & Family,

I believe I can speak for most of us in saying that we had hoped for a different start to this new year. We are yet again faced with the challenges of COVID and the complexities of operational closures and unforeseen events. I would like to reiterate what we have maintained since the outset of this school year: we are fully committed to keeping schools safely open for in-person instruction. We have shown that our schools are safe spaces as long as we continue to uphold our tight mitigation procedures. We are all working tirelessly to ensure that our students get the best possible education, and we know that requires in-person learning and being present.

Please read this email in its entirety as it details our ongoing commitment to the health and safety of our team and family by way of increased mitigation strategies and changes we are making to our quarantine guidelines.

Our Mitigation Strategies

We are committed to maintaining safe campuses, with the health of our entire team and family at the forefront of our decision-making. We are maintaining our healthy spaces with increased cleaning measures in high-touch locations, strictly enforced proper mask-wearing, at-home COVID testing, and maintaining physical distancing during non-masked situations like snack time and lunch. We are also working on bringing COVID vaccine clinics into all schools in order to increase the number of vaccinated individuals we have on campus.

New Isolation and Quarantine Guidance (from DPS)

As you may have heard, the CDC recently announced [new guidance](#) for how long to isolate or quarantine if a person tests positive or is exposed to COVID-19. In alignment with DPS, we will be following this guidance going forward:

- **Isolation:** Any student, staff member, or volunteer in a school who tests positive for COVID-19 must isolate at home for at least 5 days. If at that point, symptoms are greatly improving and there is no fever (without the use of fever-reducing medication), they may return to school or work with a well-fitting mask on at all times when around others.
- **Quarantine:** Students, staff members, or volunteers in a school who are exposed to someone with COVID-19 should do the following, based on their vaccination status:
 - Unvaccinated OR have not yet received a booster: Quarantine for 5 days followed by strict mask use for an additional 5 days.
 - Quarantine is not required for students, staff, or volunteers who are not experiencing symptoms, AND:
 - Are vaccinated and have received their booster; OR
 - Have completed the primary series (first 2 doses) of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine within the last 6 months; OR



- Have completed the primary series (first dose) of Johnson & Johnson vaccine within the last 2 months; OR (Students only) Both individuals were masked at the time of exposure.
- Even if a person is not required to quarantine, the individual should wear a mask around others for 10 days after the exposure.
- Anyone who has been exposed should be tested 5 days after exposure. If symptoms occur, individuals should immediately get tested and then quarantine until they get the test results back. (If the results are positive, they should follow the isolation guidance above).
- **Why can we return after 5 days quarantined?** The CDC found that people can actually test positive for up to two months after an initial positive test result due to lingering virus particles. Transmission is the most likely in the first five days after initial positive results. Beyond those first five days, please adhere to additional precautions (KN95 or N95 masks, being away from others in any unmasked time) upon return to buildings. ***Please note that for our ECE students, the quarantine period remains 10 days.***

Staffing Shortages and Possible, Temporary Shifts to Remote Instruction

As you know, across the country and Denver, many schools have been facing staffing shortages that have caused a temporary shift to remote learning. We know this places a burden and strain on our entire team and family. We will continue to keep these shifts to a minimum wherever possible. We will always do our best to communicate a temporary shift to remote learning as far in advance as possible so that we can have the tools we need to succeed in the remote environment.

In an effort to reduce staffing shortages, we have increased substitute pay and are hiring for many positions within our organization. Please consider sharing our [job postings](#) with your network as we seek to grow our Team & Family!

COVID Vaccination Clinics

We are partnering with local organizations to bring community vaccine clinics to our schools. Last Friday, we vaccinated 338 community members during our mobile vaccine clinic at KIPP Denver Collegiate High School!

COVID Testing

We are actively working with the Colorado Department of Health to launch in-school testing programs by January 31st. This would allow for free weekly rapid testing for all staff and students.

Currently, we are all able to receive a free COVID-19 test thanks to a partnership with COVIDCheck Colorado and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. To schedule a test, visit



<https://www.primarybio.com/l/cdphe>. To receive self-administered tests, click [here](#) to fill out the CDPHE form.

As always, I am incredibly grateful for your flexibility, grace, and perseverance as we navigate classroom closures and safeguards for everyone on our campuses. We can and will continue to provide world-class education to our KIPPsters despite the current health climate.

I see a brighter future in 2022, and I know that we will get there, together.

In Partnership,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tomi Amos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Tomi" and the last name "Amos" clearly distinguishable.

Tomi Amos

Chief Executive Officer
KIPP Colorado Public Schools