
WMA New Policy

2 messages

Waldron Mercy Academy <noreply@optionc.com>

Fri, Sep 17, 2021 at 5:30 PM

Reply-To: principal@waldronmercy.org

To: cleonard@waldronmercy.org

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Waldron Mercy is committed to safeguarding the health and well-being of its community and to keeping the children in the building as much as possible. To accomplish this we will continue to adjust our policies and procedures as necessary and keep parents informed as quickly as we can, following Catherine McAuley's vision of always "attending to the signs of the time".

Accordingly, today we are announcing that the Waldron Mercy Academy Board of Trustees has adopted a COVID-19 Vaccination Policy for our employees. The policy states that, as of November 1, 2021, Waldron Mercy will require all employees to either (a) confirm they received a COVID-19 vaccine and that two weeks have passed since the vaccination, or from the second vaccination if a two-dose vaccine is administered; or (b) request an exemption based on a religious belief or qualifying medical condition which will be evaluated by the school. Between now and November 1, all unvaccinated employees will be tested weekly.

As mentioned earlier, we have been exploring this option and gathering insight from others who have implemented this requirement while we waited for official FDA approval of the vaccine. With the support of the WMA Health & Safety Advisory Committee, we are making this important decision now, recognizing the new challenges related to the virus—the Delta variant's high transmissibility, increasing rate of infection among children in particular, and capacity to create severe illness in unvaccinated individuals. In addition to the strong safety and efficacy data and global experience related to available vaccines, we know that the majority of COVID-19 infections and nearly all cases of severe disease and hospitalization in the community are in unvaccinated persons. And we know that if eligible individuals get the COVID-19 vaccine, we will do our part in preventing the development of future, potentially even more contagious variants, if the virus continues to spread.

Understanding the great importance of on-campus learning and that being together is critical for the physical and emotional health of our children, we must do what we can to keep our students in school every day and our faculty, staff, and families healthy. Masking and getting the COVID-19 vaccine—accompanied by other important risk mitigation steps—will ensure that we are doing all we can to combat COVID-19.

Please also know that as the COVID-19 data and associated recommendations from the MontCo OPH change, and we anticipate that they will continue to change, we will continue to focus on learning, to respond to COVID issues our families face, and to communicate as rapidly as we can, first to those directly affected by COVID cases, and then to all parents to keep everyone informed. We appreciate our families' patience as we handle an unpredictable situation and an atypical workload.

In Mercy,

Joan Barone
Chair, WMA Board of Trustees

Ann Marie Braca
Principal, Waldron Mercy Academy

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