

Greetings St. Luke's Community,

In November, we promised we would assess the current climate of the pandemic in mid-January to decide if it is the right time to adjust our masking policy.

Consistent with our decision to open school two years ago, our priority has always been to have our students learn safely on campus, in classrooms with their teachers and friends. In contrast, the question has transitioned from whether we can remove masks to when we can remove masks. The current positivity rate in San Antonio and the percentage of cases within our student population are well beyond the stated metrics in our November communication. Therefore, given the high transmission rates and the number of cases we continue to experience within our school community, I hope you can understand why **now is not the time to remove masks**.

However, based on the guidance of our Medical Professional Advisory Council, we should expect to see a recognizable and distinctive decline in cases both on campus and within the neighboring communities within two weeks. **Therefore, we will transition to an optional mask policy for our students and employees on Monday, January 31st.** We will update families on quarantine expectations at that time as they are constantly changing.

We hope you understand our continuing, evolving, intentional approach to managing our school in this crazy time. We have always been thoughtful about keeping all of our students and employees safe, with the least amount of interruptions to in-person, on-campus instruction, and to date, we have been successful. As demonstrated, except for masking indoors, students experience a typical St. Luke's Day ~ students are happy, and learning is happening. We would love more than anything to resume regular school life fully.

I realize the conflicting information regarding the efficacy of masks. However, as one tool to potentially mitigate the spread, we must continue to practice safety during this surge. I also recognize the fatigue of delaying the removal of masks. I ask for grace and belief in my sincere commitment to removing our mask requirement at the end of this month.

Warmly,

Chelsea Collins



**Chelsea Collins**

Head of School

St. Luke's Episcopal School

210.826.0664

[www.sles-sa.org](http://www.sles-sa.org)

**Excellence - Every Day, Every Way**