

## **From Justin Barrett, Vice President, Student Operations**

### **Health And Safety Plan for 2020-21 School Year**

#### Fall Semester

- October 1 - October 5: Boarding students return to campus. Arrivals will be staggered and scheduled by student services.
- *Fall Break Cancelled*
- December 18: Last day of finals

Winter Break: December 19 - January 10. Homestays are available for an additional fee of \$90 per night for students that would like to stay in Idyllwild.

#### Spring Semester

- January 8 - 11: Arrival days
- *Spring Break Cancelled*
- April 28: Last day of finals
- May 1: Graduation

### **How We Will Bring Students Back to Campus**

We are suggesting that everyone in our community start exercising increased precautions (stay at home as much as possible, wear masks in public spaces, increased hygiene practices) two weeks before they arrive on campus, and to continue to exercise as many precautions as possible while traveling to Idyllwild. International students are advised to watch travel advisories, as they may need to provide proof of quarantine before entering the US.

For students who are able to travel to Idyllwild, we will work with each family to schedule their arrival date over four days from October 1 - October 4. Staggering arrivals over several days will help reduce the amount of traffic on campus, minimize group sizes, and allow plenty of time for initial health screenings. School transportation will be provided per our fee schedule for students arriving at LAX, ONT, and PSP airports. Parents dropping their children off will not be allowed to enter the dorms and must follow all health and safety precautions in place.

For students that can't arrive in early October, we will work with their families to schedule their arrival on dates staggered throughout the rest of the semester. These students would be phased into the dorms after health screenings and possibly spending two weeks in a single room in a separate dorm designated for late arrivals.

Everyone in the community will be asked to fill out a detailed travel and health questionnaire before coming to campus and will also be given a health screening and COVID-19 test when they arrive on campus (more information below on testing). The health screening will consist of a series of questions and a temperature reading. Students who do not pass the health

screening or have a positive COVID-19 test will be sent to a school property off campus for further evaluation by our Health Center staff.

### **Testing**

We are requiring all students to be tested for COVID-19 before returning to campus. Students should get tested as close to their departure date as possible, while still allowing time to get their test results and send them to us before leaving home. Each student will need to submit proof of a negative COVID-19 test (PCR or antigen test). Any families with limited access to testing should contact the school for assistance.

Upon arrival, all students will be given a COVID-19 test via rapid finger testing (or oral antigen testing if it is available at the time). The school is paying for these tests and will be using them as an extra precaution to make sure our campus reopening is as safe and healthy as possible. Any student who tests positive will be isolated at a school property off campus and sent for a PCR or antigen confirmation test. Four days after arrival, all students will be given another test, with the same protocols as above. Additional rounds of testing may be done until we are satisfied that no students on campus have COVID-19.

Current guidance from the State of California also requires that all students and staff be tested every two months once students get to campus. We will share more information on this as we move through the school year.

### **Medical Advisory Board**

We have assembled a medical advisory board to advise the school as we implement necessary modifications to our programs. We are grateful for their generous support:

- Wasef Y. Atiya, MD, Hemet Valley Medical Center (chair)
- Bridget Foy, NP, Idyllwild Health Center
- Richard Goldberg, MD, Emergency Medicine (retired)
- Mark LaMont, Paramedic, Chief, Idyllwild Fire
- Emily White, RN, Idyllwild Arts School Nurse
- Don Lamp, RN, Idyllwild Arts Health Center Director

The board will meet on a regular basis throughout the school year and continue to advise the school as the COVID-19 situation and guidance from authorities both continue to evolve.

### **Health Screening and Wearing Masks Throughout the Year**

Boarding students will be given health screenings every morning before leaving the dorm (and possibly again when checking in for curfew). Day students will be given a health screening when they come to campus each day, and employees will be required to complete a health screening each day before starting work.

Everyone in the community will be required to wear a mask in any public space. How we define public spaces will depend on guidance at the time, and may evolve after students have been on campus for more than 14 days.

The school will provide basic surgical-type masks for everyone in the community, but students are welcome to bring their own masks. For those planning to bring cloth masks or face coverings, please plan to bring at least 10 so you have a fresh one each day (and clean all your masks at the end of each week).

Students who do not follow all health and safety guidelines will be subject to school discipline, up to and including expulsion.

### **Social Distancing, Hygiene, and Increased Cleaning**

Everyone in the community will be required to complete training sessions on proper hygiene practices, and then exercise those practices on a regular basis. This includes increased hand washing, using the hand sanitizing stations across campus, and avoiding touching your face.

Group activities, events, and classes will be limited in size, and may be held in larger spaces or outdoors when possible. Seating will be based on social distancing guidelines, and events will be streamed to various platforms when possible. Everyone in the community will be expected to respect social distancing guidelines in any public spaces.

Shared spaces will be cleaned and disinfected more often. Employees and students will be asked to clean their work areas when they are done using them and we will be minimizing shared computers or implementing strict cleaning protocols.

In addition to increased cleaning, other precautions include: adding pulls that allow doors in high traffic areas to be opened by foot, adding plexiglass barriers between food servers and community members, and posting guidelines and expectations around campus.

### **Community Members with COVID-19 Symptoms**

Students who feel sick should go to the Health Center immediately where they will be assessed by one of our nurses and scheduled for an appointment with a doctor at one of our local clinics, if necessary. If a student is suspected of having COVID-19, they will be isolated from the community while awaiting further evaluation and/or test results.

### **Community Members Diagnosed with COVID-19**

If any community member is diagnosed with COVID-19 during the school year, they will be isolated from the community and the School will follow all guidance from local, state, and federal authorities. This may include contact tracing and possibly quarantining those who had been in close contact with the person diagnosed with COVID-19.

Any student diagnosed with COVID-19 would be placed on medical leave and isolated from the community in a school-owned property off campus, and their parent or guardian would be required to pick them up within 48 hours ( if guardian is in California) or 96 hours (for guardians

in all other locations) .If the student was in a hospital or other healthcare facility, we would meet their parent or guardian there to transfer care.

Any community member would have to meet all requirements set forth by local authorities and the School before returning to campus after recovering from COVID-19.

### **Parents / Guardians**

All students from California need to have a family member or guardian on file that could come to campus and pick them up within 48 hours in case of an emergency. All other students - domestic students from states other than California and international students - need to have a parent or guardian on file that could pick them up within 96 hours in case of an emergency. The parent or guardian on file does not need to reside in the United States.

Any student diagnosed with COVID 19 would be isolated from the community and cared for at a property off campus until their parent or guardian could pick them up.

For families that can't meet the revised requirements, they can secure guardianship through an outside company or another parent may be willing to be their child's guardian. The school has partnered with AmeriStudent, a company that provides homestays for boarding students. Some more details on what they are offering:

- Emergency guardianship for the school year for \$999
- Students needing to stay off campus are placed with pre-screened families in Southern California
- The above fee includes two nights of care off campus
- After the first two nights of care, the fee is \$45 per night
- This program includes providing care for students diagnosed with COVID-19 (medical costs are separate and would be covered by each student's health insurance)

You can find more information about the guardianship service that AmeriStudent is offering [here](#).

### **Revised Attendance Policy**

The attendance policy has been revised to encourage students to report to the Health Center any time they feel sick or even just under the weather. Absences for a verified illness are now classified as exempt, as are tardies for students who are at the Health Center and then sent back to class.

### **At Risk Groups**

Any family that has a student in a high risk health group should contact Don Lamp (dlamp@idyllwildarts.org), Health Center Director, to discuss how we can best support them. High risk groups include those who are immunocompromised or have certain preexisting health conditions.

### **Roommates, Pods, and Dorms**

Boarding students will be living in a mix of single and double occupancy rooms. Current guidance recommends grouping students in cohorts so that they spend as much time as possible in the same groups. For our students, that means that they will be grouped by their major in the dorms, and those groups will be scheduled for the same meals. Majors with fewer students may be grouped together. We have always had several 'pods' in each dorm, where a prefect leads a group of 10 - 15 other students, and will continue to do so.

Boarding students will only be allowed in the dorms they live in, and day students will not be allowed in the dorms. Dorm parents will be on duty throughout the day.

### **Trips off Campus and Town Privileges**

Student travel during the school year should be limited to only the most essential trips. Students that leave Idyllwild may be asked to quarantine or exercise increased precautions upon their return to campus. We realize that it isn't feasible for some day students to stay in Idyllwild for an entire semester, and ask that day students traveling outside Idyllwild exercise increased precautions when they are off the hill.

Private lessons that students are usually taken off campus for will take place remotely, or lesson instructors may be allowed to come to campus occasionally while exercising multiple precautions. Master classes, guest artists, and most part time faculty will deliver content online rather than coming to campus.

To start the year, boarding students will not have town privileges to help minimize public contact. If at any point during the semester the school does allow town privileges, it would be in stages based on the risk level at the time. The first stage would be town privileges on some weekdays, and the next stage would be town privileges as normal, on the weekends. Students would be required to observe the same precautions while in town that they do while on campus.

We realize that suspending town privileges has a significant impact on our boarding students, and are planning for ways to help them get food and supplies from town by working with local businesses to set up an order delivery system. We are also going to deliver all mail and packages to the dorms.

We are expanding the retail space in the bookstore and will be asking students what products they would like us to have available. We are opening a coffee shop / snack bar in the Fireside Room that will sell snacks, prepackaged meals, and drinks.

### **Visitors**

Campus will be closed to the public. Parents are welcome to visit campus, but are encouraged only to visit if it is essential and would be required to complete a health screening and follow the same precautions as our students and employees while on campus. For parents taking their boarding students off campus for one or more nights, we will treat those students as day

students for the length of the visit, and may ask the boarding student to quarantine or exercise increased precautions when they return to the dorms, depending on guidance at the time.

### **Winter Break Homestays**

Homestays are available over winter break, and we encourage students to stay in Idyllwild if they do not want to travel. Depending on the number of students requesting homestays, students will either stay in a large property off campus, or we will keep campus open. Homestays are \$90 per night.