

Dear Families,

Our hearts ache for the families, teachers, and community of Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, TX, who have experienced massive losses after a tragic event. We want to assure families that the safety and security of our schools are our top priority. We continue to partner with the Emory University Police Department and the CDC's security team to implement and enhance our safety practices and protocols.

Unfortunately, we witnessed the effectiveness of our practices when our schools were locked down a few weeks ago. Our teachers and staff quickly and effectively followed our protocols and were able to keep our children calm and safe. After the event, we held debriefing sessions with the teachers and staff. While the situation was scary for everyone, we learned that the teachers felt prepared to implement our protocols. We will continue to practice and enhance our procedures.

For resources on talking with your children about tragic events click here  [Resources for Families_Staff 2022.pdf](#).

Masking Policy

Beginning June 1, 2022, wearing a mask will be optional for all children and fully vaccinated adults when DeKalb County has a **Green** community level based on CDC guidelines. If the community level changes to **Yellow or Orange**, wearing masks will be required for everyone over the age of 2. All age-eligible individuals completing a quarantine period are required to wear a mask inside and outside.

DeKalb County's community level is currently **Yellow**. Wearing masks is **REQUIRED** for everyone when we return to school on Wednesday, June 1, 2022.

Updated Travel Policy

- Travel restrictions will be enforced when our community (DeKalb County) or the community you are traveling to with your child has a community level of **Orange (high)** based on the CDC's [community levels](#). If the above criteria are in place when you travel with your child, then we will follow the CDC's guidelines for travel.

The Clifton School's COVID-19 Community Levels Guidelines

	Low	Medium	High
Masking	Optional	Required	Required
Follow CDC Travel Guidelines	Optional	Optional	Required

Find your community level on the [CDC's COVID Data Tracker](#)

The CDC currently recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and children ages 2 years and older in K-12 schools and Early

Care and Education (ECE) programs at a high COVID-19 Community Level. Schools and ECE programs should support anyone who chooses to wear a mask at low or medium COVID-19 Community Levels. The benefits of mask-wearing are well-established.

Summer Safety

At The Clifton School, we must practice safety at all times. We are especially focused on sun safety during the hot months. We are sure to keep children well hydrated before going outside and while they are outside. We are sure to protect children from outdoor elements by applying sunscreen and insect repellent as needed (please provide non-aerosol products.) We also have all playgrounds professionally treated for mosquitos monthly. In addition, we pay close attention to the smog alerts and receive messages daily from the Clean Air Campaign. We practice the following safety guidelines for outdoor activity during smog alerts:

Code Orange – outdoor in the morning, ½ outdoor time in the afternoon

Code Red – ½ outdoor time in the morning, no outdoor time in the afternoon

Please click [here](#) for more information on summer safety.

Please do not leave children in vehicles

When dropping off and picking up, do not leave children unattended in vehicles.

Heatstroke (hyperthermia) is the biggest danger. Heatstroke can damage the brain and other body organs. It can even lead to death. It doesn't take long for a child's body temperature to become too high very fast when left in a car because:

- The temperature inside a car can increase 20 degrees in just 10 minutes and 40 degrees in an hour. It doesn't have to feel hot outside to be dangerous inside a car. Deaths have happened when it's just above 70 degrees F (Fahrenheit) outside. Leaving the windows open slightly does not prevent the temperature from rising to a dangerous level.
- A child's body heats up three to five times faster than an adult's body. Children have a lot of body surface area that absorbs heat. Children's bodies have not yet developed the ability to cool down well.

Most of the children who have died from heat stroke after being left alone in a car were 3 and under, but it has happened to kids as old as 14.

Important Dates

- **May 30-31, 2022:** Closed for the Memorial Day holiday
- **June 20, 2022:** Closed for Juneteenth
- **Summer Conversation Series with Families:** If you would like to participate in the conversation, please email me (nfeagin@thecliftonschool.org) and indicate which session you plan to attend. You will receive a Zoom link before the session.
 - Wednesday, June 22, 12 PM-1 PM: Why Children Do What They Do – For Toddler II and Preschool families.
 - Wednesday, July 13, 12 PM -1 PM: Responding to Your Child's Bite – For Infant and Toddler I families.

Thank you for allowing us to take care of your children. It is a privilege we do not take for granted. Have a great holiday weekend.

Be well,

Natalie Feagin
Executive Director
www.thecliftonschool.org