

Report from KBA Board Meeting September 12, 2021

Dear Parents,

Our school board met on Sunday regarding the recent Island-wide Covid-19 surge in cases. Here are some of the topics discussed and decisions made regarding the Academy Ministry.

Praises:

1. All of the students and teachers who have tested positive for Covid-19 are recovering very well and have concluded their quarantine.
2. The Island-wide surge in positive Covid-19 cases is now declining.
3. Reassuring effect of the statistical data compiled by the Center of Disease Control.
 - a. 94% of Covid-19 related deaths list other comorbidities (heart disease, morbid obesity, respiratory diseases, etc.)
 - b. And the majority of those have died with more than one co-morbidity. The average is 2.6.
 - c. Covid-19 related deaths thus far (as of 9/12/2021) for children ages 0-18 is 412. According to 94% comorbidity rate that means only 25 children in the U.S. have died from Covid-19 alone.
 - d. Tragically, 55,352 children age 0-18 in the U.S. have died from all other causes. Traffic related deaths being the highest cause at 20%.
 - e. We cannot dictate what parents are concerned about, but we believe this data is reassuring and should be considered.
4. Every government agency that we are aware of has stated repeatedly that it is safe for our children to be at school. In fact, it is one of the safest places children can be. We praise the Lord that Ko'olau Baptist Academy conducted school last year when most schools were closed. We believe the student's education and health was advanced.

Policy Statement Reminders and Updates:

1. We will continue to do everything possible to keep our students safe.
2. We will continue to ask parents to please keep children with sickness home, and we ask parents to monitor them and to get them tested for Covid-19 if a fever persists more than 24 hours.
3. We will continue to ask parents to follow state guidelines for quarantine periods both for those infected with Covid-19 and those exposed recommended by State officials.
4. We will continue to call parents to pick up their child for monitoring if we notice any symptoms that develop in their student while at school.

5. We will continue frequent sanitizing rooms.
6. We will continue asking students to wash their hands frequently and to keep their hands away from their face.
7. We will adjust our policy regarding masks in view of the recent communication with the State Health Department. Children will be required to wear masks properly inside. We ask that parents assist us in proper mask wearing instruction (good fitting masks, properly worn, clean masks, and refrain from touching). We realize many of our parents have concerns based on studies questioning children wearing masks, so will attempt to get the children outside frequently to allow them to remove their mask for fresh air. State health officials had communicated policy recommendations different from this in the past. We reached out to State health officials for clarification, and they responded in saying that they now recommend mask wearing in the classroom.
8. We will continue to share the encouraging data presently reported from the Center of Disease Control.
9. We affirm parental responsibility to insure their child's safety.
10. We are thankful for the overwhelming support our Academy Ohana has expressed to us during this time.

By God's Grace and For His Glory,

Ko'olau Baptist Academy Administration