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August 8, 2021

Dear Tamarack Community,

As the nature of the current pandemic continues to evolve, we are continuing to evaluate our Fall return to school plans.

Due to the circulating and highly contagious Delta variant, the World Health Organization (WHO), Center for Disease Control (CDC), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Milwaukee Health Department (MHD), and the Department of Health Services (DHS) are all recommending that schools implement layered prevention strategies to protect students, teachers, and staff during in-person learning. These include universal mask wearing by all regardless of vaccination status, at least 3 feet of physical distance, cohorting, screening and testing, ventilation, handwashing and respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and getting tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, cleaning and disinfecting. These recommendations were measures Tamarack successfully put in place last spring to return to in-person learning. With the COVID-19 cases increasing nationally since mid-June 2021, driven by the Delta variant, the protective health and safety measures we put in place will remain essential as a protection against exposure to the virus.

As we evaluate our school operations against the much-needed health and safety measures, we have determined that we **will not be able to safely operate our before or after school extended care program in the fall**. Additionally, like many businesses in our community, we are facing staffing shortages and have been unable to hire the staff needed to safely run our extended care program. As the school year progresses, we will continue to monitor the health situation to determine if we can offer the programing at some point during the school year. We realize this will be a hardship for some of our families and we do our part in helping families find a solution to before and after school care.

We will continue to keep the school community updated with any changes to our operations as we get closer to the start of the school year. We are looking forward to safely welcoming our students back on the first day of school.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at [**lora.poulos@tamarackwaldorf.org**](mailto:lora.poulos@tamarackwaldorf.org) or 414-277-0009.

Sincerely,



Lora Poulos

Administrative Director

On behalf of Tamarack’s Board of Trustees and Leadership Team