



January 18, 2022

RE: NEW UPDATED QUARANTINE INFORMATION

Dear Parents and Families:

In a recent communication from me, I explained that while there have been many changes in the recommendations from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) and CDPH (California Department of Public Health) regarding quarantine and isolation periods, the Tehama County Department of Public Health had not adopted those changes, and therefore, we could not adopt the latest recommendations. Dr. Brown made that decision in the best interest and safety of our community as we were starting to see a rise in our number of cases, and our county vaccination rate is still low at 47.1%. As a school district in Tehama County, we must follow the directives of our local County Public Health official.

**This weekend, the Tehama County Public Health Department adopted the changes recommended by CDPH for students.**

The shorter incubation period and increased transmissibility of variants currently circulating in California suggest an updated approach to contact tracing and quarantining may be warranted, and that is the reason for these public agencies making these changes. The other layers of COVID mitigation - such as receiving COVID-19 vaccinations and boosters, wearing high-quality well-fitting masks, staying home and testing if asymptomatic, and improving indoor air quality - remain crucial to school-based mitigation efforts.

As such, the following policies will be in place beginning this week. Schools will follow the Group-Tracing approach ([click here for details](#)) for students exposed to COVID-19 while in school. The [attached chart](#) may help you understand the difference between the current EUSD plan and the EUSD new plan that is in alignment with CDPH and TCDPH. That being said, if your child is already in quarantine, the school will notify you if and when they can return to school once procedures have been established. This may take a few days as we work through implementing this new policy, but be assured, every effort will be made to get your child back into school as soon as possible.

## Students Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 AT SCHOOL:

When a positive case is identified in a group:

- All other students will be notified (who spent more than 15 minutes - within a 24 hour period in a shared indoor space (e.g. classroom, sports team) with someone with COVID-19 during their infectious period). This notification includes all individuals considered exposed, including those who are vaccinated, boosted, and/or recently infected.
- **All exposed students, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status or prior infection can:**
  - Remain in school
  - Continue to take part in sports and extracurricular activities

### **AS LONG AS THEY:**

- Remain asymptomatic
- Complete a COVID-19 test with a negative result on day 3 or 4 after the exposure. Students may not test before day 3. Any FDA-approved antigen diagnostic test, PCR diagnostic test, or pooled PCR test is acceptable for evaluation of an individual's COVID-19 status. (An over the counter home test may also be used.) If your child is quarantined, you may pick up a test at your school's office, while supplies last. You may [find a testing site near you](#) or order them free online [from covidtests.gov](#).
- Provide proof of a negative test result to the school by noon on day 4 to remain in school for all subsequent days. This may be emailed to each school's office or dropped off, but must be received by noon on the 4th day. (You will find this date on your exposure letter.)

*In the event of wide-scale and/or repeated exposures, and in an effort to keep more students at school, broader (e.g., grade-wide or campus-wide) once weekly testing for COVID-19 may be considered until such time that exposure events become less frequent.*

### **All exposed students, who:**

- Become symptomatic - will be quarantined accordingly - and should get tested. They may not return for in person instruction until they have met the CDPH criteria to return to school:
  - At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, AND
  - Other symptoms have improved, AND
  - They have:
    - A negative test for SARS CoV-2, OR
    - A healthcare provider has provided documentation of an alternative diagnosis, OR
    - Ten days have passed since symptom onset

- \*Exposed students who test positive will be isolated accordingly.
- Choose not to test, submit test results on time, or provide test results to the school office - will be omitted from school and subject to the current 10 day quarantine procedure.

This new policy adopted by Tehama County Public Health will help to ensure that more students can attend school regularly and significantly reduce the number of students that must be quarantined.

At this time, the quarantine guidelines have not yet changed for staff. As a result, we may still have issues finding enough qualified staff to keep parts of our programs open for In Person learning. We are hopeful that these isolation and quarantine requirements will be adjusted accordingly in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

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