1/27/22

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The health and well-being of our students and staff continue to be one of our highest priorities. We are dedicated to maintaining the best learning experience possible while protecting the safety of our students and staff. For the majority of children, the risks from COVID-19 infection are outweighed by the known social and mental health harms of remote learning, even during the current Omicron surge.

On January 12, 2022, the California Department of Public Health released revised guidance for TK-12 settings in which they identified alternative approaches to contact tracing and quarantine. In the event of wide-scale and/or repeated exposures, as we have been experiencing during the current Omicron surge, once weekly testing may be implemented in lieu of traditional exposure notification and contact tracing. This approach makes sense during the height of the Omicron pandemic given that frequent exposures are occurring in school and outside of school, in the community, where exposures are not or cannot be communicated.

Therefore, between January 14, 2022 and February 11, 2022, we will not be sending individual close contact notifications. Instead, we will focus on weekly testing of all students and staff. We will update you when this protocol changes in accordance with fewer exposure events or additional guidance from local and state public health authorities.

Our school will continue to follow safety protocols, including masking and proper ventilation, to further reduce the risk of in-school COVID-19 transmission.

What does this mean for you and your child?

- **Your child may remain in school unless they develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19.** Being exposed to somebody with COVID-19 does not necessarily mean that your child will become infected. Vaccination and wearing a mask can reduce the chance of infection even if exposed.

- **Your child should be tested for COVID-19 once a week.** By testing weekly, anyone who has a COVID-19 infection can be identified, even if they do not have symptoms. To access weekly testing resources, contact your child’s school district or go here to find a community testing site near you. Also, any FDA-approved over-the-counter (at-home) tests may also be used. Note that, if your child tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, antigen testing (vs. PCR) is recommended.
• If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19 or tests positive for COVID-19, please make sure they isolate at home immediately and notify us right away at 650 494-1200. When you notify us, we can take additional steps to keep our school community safe.

• Your child must continue to wear a mask indoors in the school and community per school, local, and state requirements. Follow school policies to protect against COVID-19. High quality masks with the best fit and filtration will provide the best protection for your child and the school community.

• If you haven’t done so yet, your child should get vaccinated against COVID-19. If your child is 12 years of age or older, a booster dose is recommended five months after the second dose. COVID-19 vaccination remains the best way to protect against the spread of the virus and against severe disease. Make an appointment to get vaccinated or contact your child’s doctor or healthcare provider to learn more.

We encourage you to contact us with questions and concerns. Please call us at 650-494-1200, email us at info@achievekids.org, or visit our website at https://www.achievekids.org for updates.

Resources & Links:

• Home Isolation & Quarantine Guidelines: | English | Chinese | Spanish | Vietnamese | Tagalog |
• Parent handout for Scenario 2: | English | Chinese | Spanish | Vietnamese | Tagalog |
• “A Parent’s Guide to Contact Tracing”: | English | Chinese | Spanish | Vietnamese | Tagalog |

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Drechsler
Director of Education