



August 23, 2021

Dear Parents,

I have had a number of questions come through email about the notifications of positive student cases identified and I have responded to these emails over this past weekend and today. I was notified of two additional cases just today.

It is abundantly clear that COVID-19 and its variants are going to continue to impact our lives and our school functioning for the foreseeable future. Even in following procedures put forth by CDPH and County Health, we will continue to have positive cases impact student attendance. I'm sorry if any of you had a different expectation. This is our reality, and I need all families to understand that you may be required to quarantine your child at some point this year and possibly multiple times. I recognize that this is an inconvenience, but please understand that the health and safety of our students and staff are a top priority, and all must comply when instructed to follow a particular course of action in a case of COVID exposure. These protocols and policies are mandated by County Health and are not optional.

It is a challenging and disconcerting time for all of us. It is my job to keep your children and our staff as safe as possible. I cannot do that without the full cooperation of our families. We are all counting on you to screen your children prior to coming to school each day; you must keep your child home if they are exhibiting any [symptoms](#). Please notify us as soon as you receive a positive test result. It is a lengthy process to notify County Health and all families impacted. If you are instructed to observe a quarantine or a modified quarantine because your child has been identified as a close contact, you must do so. If we have families unwilling to comply, we may be forced to return to distance learning or take further action to ensure the safety of all. The situation is far too serious to allow for disagreement; the stakes are simply too high.

Students have been assigned seats for their lunch time when masks are off while eating. This will aid in contact tracing. Once again, because new CDPH guidelines indicate masks as optional during recess and outside PE, we ask that you communicate clearly with your child if you want them to be masked during those times. Please be aware that PE teachers may require masks.

Students identified as close contacts while masks were in place may quarantine for 10 days or may observe a modified quarantine during which the student remains symptom-free and tests on the third and sixth day. If a student is fully vaccinated, they do not have to test during a modified quarantine, but we must verify vaccination status. Tests cannot be home tests. Students identified as close contacts unmasked within six feet for a cumulative period of 15 minutes in 24 hours must quarantine for 10 days. Close contacts will be notified with a letter outlining the required action. I will also send a general notification to the class and possibly the school. Unless you receive the letter identifying your child as a close contact, then they are able to attend school.

I will do my best to communicate clearly and quickly and keep everyone informed of updates and changes to policies and procedures as we move forward this year. I appreciate your understanding and patience.

We look forward to a positive and successful school year for all.

Sincerely---Shirley Gray