



January 5, 2022

Dear ESUSD Employees, Families and Community,

I would like to express my gratitude to all of you for your patience and understanding as El Segundo Unified School District navigates through extraordinary circumstances caused by the recent surge of COVID-19. Fortunately, ESUSD's small size allows us to be nimble and flexible. In times like these, everyone pitches in to get the job done as evident by the District's successful distribution of at-home test kits for students within 24 hours of receiving them on Monday from LACOE. ESUSD Board President Tracey Miller-Zarneke and Vice President Dieema Wheaton, along with members of our outstanding Leadership Team, all stepped up to distribute 2750 test kits to families. The distribution has allowed us to quickly respond to keep students safe. As of noon today, we have 72 positive cases of COVID-19 among students who have been on campus. Students who tested positive are to remain home. The District Nurse is in the process of emailing parents of children who tested positive regarding the specific required timelines to follow. Due to the surge and shortage of test appointments, the District is not requiring parents to obtain a PCR test at this time.

The purpose of this notification is to provide all families with districtwide notice of positive COVID-19 cases at school sites this week. **Schools are actively in the process of notifying the identified close contacts as soon as a new positive case is identified.** All faculty, staff and administrators are working tirelessly to respond thoughtfully to all the various inquires and requests that have been generated due to the surge in COVID-19.

**Districtwide Parent Notification of COVID-19**

We would like to inform you that we have recently received information about confirmed cases of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in one or more students who were on campus at the following schools and programs:

- Eagle's Nest 0 cases
- Center Street School 19 Student cases
- Richmond Street School 4 Student cases and 1 Staff case
- The Learning Connection Included in the school totals for CSS & RSS
- El Segundo Middle School 13 Student cases
- El Segundo High School 36 Student cases and 1 Staff case
- Arena High School 0 cases

Cleaning and disinfection of the exposed locations has been completed. As the Coronavirus Omicron variant is prevalently circulating, we urge you to take necessary precautions to limit coronavirus spread in our community.

ESUSD is working with the Los Angeles Department of Public Health to follow up with each and every case. Through the contract tracing protocol, we have identified and contacted the affected students and faculty or staff members. A close contact is defined as a person who has been exposed to a COVID-19 case during the infectious period and who meets one of the following criteria: (1) were within six feet of the infected person for 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period, or (2) had unprotected contact with the infected person's bodily fluids and/or secretions, for example, being coughed or sneezed on. Individuals in the classroom or school group are not considered a close contact unless they meet the above definition.

We will continue to follow the required COVID-19 safety protocol to keep our staff and students as safe as possible. These safety measures mitigate the spread to COVID-19 and allow ESUSD to keep our schools open for students full-time.

### **How You Can Help**

We ask that you please be proactive about reducing the number of interactions that students and staff have with one another by practicing physical (or social) distancing (staying at least 6 feet apart) to limit the spread of the COVID-19. In addition to physical distancing, another important tool to prevent the spread of coronavirus is to practice good hygiene. Important public health prevention messages include:

- **Stay home when you are sick.** If you have symptoms consistent with COVID-19, stay home and get tested. If you test positive, notify the school for further instruction. If you test negative, remain at home until symptoms are improved and you are fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine and test negative with a rapid Antigen test
- **Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.** Sing the Happy Birthday song to help know when it has been 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use alcohol-based hand sanitizers that contain at least 60% alcohol.
- **Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, and then dispose of the tissue and clean your hands immediately.** If you do not have a tissue, use their sleeve, not your hands, to cover their coughs and sneezes.
- **Limit close contact with people who are sick, and avoid sharing food, drinks, or utensils.**
- **Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipes.**
- At this time, staff are required to wear upgraded masks (three ply surgical masks or higher-level PPE)
- Masking is now required for all outdoor activities where physical distancing is not feasible, except while eating or drinking.
- Students are strongly recommended to wear masks that are well-fitting, non-cloth masks of multiple layers on non-woven material with a nose wire. ESUSD has provided masks to

all school sites to meet this optional recommendation, making them readily available for students.

- Health screening of students and staff for COVID-19 which includes asking about symptoms consistent with COVID-19 illness. **It is essential that all individuals accurately report symptoms on Ruvna. If the individual is not cleared to report to school, that he/she notify the school and remain at home until symptom free.**

### **Public Health Actions**

All confirmed and presumed cases should be isolated for a minimum of 10 days and close contacts quarantined (as described below) to prevent illness in new persons. “Close contact” means being within six feet of the infected person for 15 minutes or more in a 24-hour period; or having unprotected contact with the infected person’s body fluids and/or secretions, for example, being coughed or sneezed on.

### **Requirements for Close Contacts who are **NOT** Exempt from Quarantine**

The following close contacts are required to quarantine:

- Persons who are **NOT** fully vaccinated; **OR**
- Persons who are fully vaccinated and booster-eligible but have **NOT** yet received their booster dose.

Close contacts who are not exempted from quarantine are required to quarantine at home and monitor for symptoms. As long as they do not develop symptoms, they may come back to school:

- After ten full days have passed from their last known contact to the infected person and are symptom-free.
- If the individual remains asymptomatic, quarantine can end after Day five if they remain asymptomatic and test negative on a rapid antigen test administered after the 5<sup>th</sup> day of exposure.

### **Requirements for Close Contacts who are Exempt from Quarantine**

The following persons with exposures are exempt from quarantine provided they remain asymptomatic:

- Persons who are boosted; **OR**
- Persons who are [fully vaccinated](#) but not yet booster-eligible

In order to remain in school, close contacts who are exempt from quarantine are required to:

- Immediately test for COVID 19 upon learning of exposure
- Retest after day five (5) from exposure
- Wear a medical grade mask for ten (10) days after exposure while around others, both indoors and outdoors.

If the close contact who is exempt from quarantine tests positive at any time, the individual is required to follow [Home Isolation Instructions for COVID-19](#).

In addition, an optional **Modified Quarantine for TK-12 students is also available if specific criteria exist and requirements are followed** as outlined in the [COVID-19 Exposure Management Plan for TK-12 Schools](#). Administrators will notify exposed close contacts if they are eligible for modified quarantine. The [Home Quarantine Guidance](#) is available online. Symptoms of COVID-19 may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus and may include one of more of the following: fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, and/or new loss of taste or smell. Note this list does not include all possible symptoms of COVID-19.

Ensuring that our educational environment is safe is of greatest importance to us. Please note that all information, including the name(s) of ill persons, shared regarding any Public Health investigation is confidential in order to protect patient privacy. For additional questions about Coronavirus in Los Angeles County, please visit the webpage. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's Principal or Assistant Principal.

As you can see from this correspondence, the District is once again pivoting to address the latest challenge brought on by COVID-19 as we continue to strive to provide our children with the best education at a very uncertain moment in time. The District will be updating our [COVID-19 Dashboard](#) once a week to reflect the current number of cases at each school site. I want to thank you again for your patience and understanding as we continue to deal with this unprecedented situation. We will keep you updated via email, social media, and our website.

With gratitude that we are in this together,

*Melissa Moore, Ed.D.*

*Superintendent*

*El Segundo Unified School District*