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Jodee Brentlinger

January 19, 2022

Dear Solana Beach School District (SBSD) Families,

What a wonderful first week back from winter break. While staffing was and remains a challenge, I want to thank everyone for their support and commitment to keep our students in class, schools open, and students and staff healthy and safe. Together, WE did it!!! And we cannot stop now. SBSD remains deeply committed to providing a safe in-person learning environment for our students and staff and, in doing so, we continue to implement health and safety protocols established by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the local health department.

Equally challenging during this time is attending to testing and communications resulting from the increased number of positive cases. In addition, there have been numerous changes to the [Decision Tree](#) based on ever-evolving CDPH updates. This requires sufficient staff and testing resources in order to keep students in their classes and our schools open. To preserve these resources and meet our intended goals, please take a minute to review updates to our processes in several areas:

Updated Contact Tracing for Direct Close Contact

With the significant increase in COVID-19 positive cases, late [Wednesday](#) night, the CDPH initiated what they are calling [Group-Tracing Approach to Students Exposed to COVID-19 in K-12 School Setting](#). For the current time, the only change to our process is that instead of two tests required for students identified as direct close contacts, only one test is necessary 3-5 days after the last date of exposure. Therefore, instead of requiring two tests, if exposure occurred at school, students identified as direct close contacts will only be tested once. Please note the recent change requires that students be tested, regardless of vaccination status. At the moment, SBSD is able to continue its direct close contact testing program conducted conveniently onsite. Families also have the option of using outside resources including home test kits.

While SBSD intends to continue onsite testing, we will only be able to do so as long as there is sufficient staff and testing capacity.

Help Wanted - Community Support will Keep our Students in Class, Schools Open

1. Please ensure your student is wearing a well-fitted mask at all times.

309 North Rios Avenue, Solana Beach, California 92075-1298 • Phone (858) 794-7100 • Fax (858) 794-7105

- Masks remain one of the most important defensive measures against COVID-19. SBSB has ordered KF94 masks for students and staff as well as we have learned that California will also be providing every student and school staff with KN95 masks. We expect those masks to be delivered within the next several weeks.
- 2. If your student has [COVID-19 symptoms](#), no matter how minor, please keep them home and follow the [Decision Tree](#). In addition, please call/notify your school site before they return – even if they test negative.
 - SBSB does not have the staffing or testing capacity to test students who are exhibiting COVID-19 like symptoms.
 - Families may sign up for free home testing kits via the Covid tests website.
- 3. If your student tests positive (lab or home test), please keep your student home, follow the [Decision Tree](#), and contact your school office.

Communication Regarding Positive COVID-19 Cases

The following communications are now being implemented effective Tuesday, January 18, 2022:

- Only families with students identified as direct close contacts will receive an email notification.
- Only employee direct close contact(s) will receive an email notification.
- School communities will refer to the District Dashboard Updates* for positive COVID-19 school numbers.

*Schools will no longer be sending home an all-school email notification. Families may check the Dashboard for district and schoolwide case updates. The Dashboard is updated daily. As always, we greatly appreciate the collective commitment of our school communities to do all that we can to keep our students in class, our schools open, and our students and staff healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

Jodee Brentlinger, Superintendent

Next Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, January 20, 2022, 6:30 p.m.



A Spanish translation prepared by District staff will soon be available on our website.

La traducción al español estará disponible próximamente en nuestro sitio web.

A Chinese translation prepared by District staff will soon be available on our website.

我们即将在学区网站上提供中文的翻译版本