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SUPERINTENDENT

Jodee Brentlinger

September 3, 2021

Dear Solana Beach School District Families,

As we complete our third week of school, I am thankful for the joy and happiness I see from our students and staff as they engage in what they love most, teaching and learning. This includes our ImmersiveEDU and in-person students and staff. I also want to thank all of our families for your continued support as we navigate new COVID-19 processes and procedures. Although we regret to hear about any COVID-19 cases on our campuses, I am encouraged by the good news that we have had very few cases thus far.

Quarantine

This year, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has made significant changes to quarantine protocols by which school districts must abide. While our primary goal is always to provide for the health and safety of our students and staff, a secondary important goal is to keep our students in class and our schools open.

In addition to a summary below, please access this [video clip](#) and [checklist](#) to help better understand the four CDPH quarantine processes.

When exposure occurs in a school setting (*defined as supervised by school employees*), the CDPH has developed three different quarantine processes, based upon specific criteria, for when there are direct contact exposures to students:

- **Return Day 11:** Students may return on Day 11 following the last date of exposure without a COVID testing requirement.
- **Return Day 8:** Students may return on Day 8 following the last date of exposure with proof of a negative COVID-19 test on Day 6 or later.
- **Modified Quarantine:** Students must meet specific criteria in order to remain in school and in class which includes 1) Student was masked while within 0-6' of the positive individual, and 2) Student, when unmasked, maintained 6' or more of physical distance from the positive individual. If eligible, students must:
 - Not exhibit flu- or COVID-like symptoms;
 - Continue to mask;
 - Be tested upon notification of last exposure and after Day 5 of quarantine period; and,
 - Not participate in any program or activity outside of the regular school day on campus or in a community setting through Day 7 of the quarantine period.

When exposure occurs **outside** of a school setting (*defined as supervised by school employees*), there is only one quarantine option available:

- **Return Day 15** - If the direct contact occurred outside of a school setting.

Ventilation Systems

We have always recognized the importance of clean and safe Indoor air at school, even prior to COVID-19, and we strive to improve the ventilation on our campuses to support increased health and safety measures. In the summer of 2020, SBSD conducted a mechanical assessment in order to upgrade the heating ventilation and air conditioning systems (HVAC). As a result, MERV 13-rated filtration was installed and outside air intake and air exchanges were increased. Just recently, the Board of Education gave direction to staff to further explore additional ventilation health and safety measures. To continue to increase indoor air quality in our schools, staff will re-engage in a mechanical evaluation, with an impartial third-party consultant that specializes in air quality control, to determine the best long-term additional or alternate system(s) to enhance ventilation today, tomorrow, and into the future.

As previously stated, we are encouraged by the low number of COVID-19 cases we have identified this school year. It is important to note that 85% of reported cases thus far have been in children, our population that is not yet eligible for vaccination. As we enter into the official last three-day weekend of summer with the Labor Day holiday, I want to remind everyone that it is especially important that everyone continue to observe all health and safety mitigation measures, in and out of the school environment, such as wearing masks, avoiding large crowds, limiting travel, physical distancing, and monitoring for COVID-19 symptoms. Our desire is that students and staff safely return to teaching and learning without interruption.

Upcoming Board Meeting

Join us for the September 8, 2021, Board of Education Meeting. Please note that the meeting is scheduled for Wednesday rather than Thursday, due to California Admissions Day. At this meeting, principals will provide their annual school opening reports. The agenda and Zoom link will be posted on the District website a minimum of 72 hours in advance of the meeting.

I wish all of you a restful, healthy, and safe Labor Day weekend with your families.

Sincerely,

Jodee Brentlinger, Superintendent



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