

Hello everyone,

Parents have requested that a video recording of these updates be provided for families so one is included in the link below. Please feel free to watch the video instead of reading the email.

<https://youtu.be/h4gCxjECmUE>

Below you will find this week's Covid updates:

Number of positive Covid cases for staff: 0

Number of positive Covid cases for students: 0

Number of staff who went home with Covid related symptoms: 1

Number of students who went home with Covid related symptoms: 18

Relevant Updates From the Weekly Alameda County Covid Liaison Meeting:

1) Mask safety -- neck gaiters are not considered an acceptable option in regards to Covid safety. Any student or staff person who wears one to work or school will be given an appropriate mask to wear instead.

2) Home tests need to be completed on-site (at school) or in a doctor's office. The reason behind this is that the accuracy of the test is a combination of the quality of the test sample (how well you are swabbing) and it's proper mixture with the extraction reagent (the testing liquid). Students and families who are not trained to conduct these tests may not use the proper technique to obtain the most accurate results. We have plenty of rapid tests at school so you are not required to provide your own.

OSA Announcements:

1) OSA Facilities have replaced all the filters in our AC unit to ensure optimal Covid safety. Thank you Mr. Secrease for getting that done yesterday and for your diligent work to keep our community safe.

2) This is a friendly reminder to please make sure you keep your children home if they are not feeling well. Students should not be coming to school if they are experiencing symptoms or are sick, even with a negative Covid test.

Also, there's been some confusion around the protocol in regards to students who are experiencing symptoms and need to quarantine. Our protocols, which were developed based on guidance from the Alameda County Department of Public Health are as follows:

Any student or staff person who exhibits Covid-related symptoms must quarantine for 10 days or show proof of a negative Covid test or a doctor's note indicating that the symptoms were due to something other than Covid (i.e., allergies). The person's symptoms must also be improved with no fever for at least 24 hours (without the use of medicine).

The symptomatic person may not come to school even with a negative Covid test unless they have a doctor's note providing clearance for them to be back at school. The reason behind this decision is that the result could have been a false negative.

If you are completing an at-home rapid Covid test, please keep in mind that it must be completed on-site at OSA or in a doctor's office to be considered valid.

These guidelines are irrespective of whether you are vaccinated or not.

I hope this helps to clear up some confusion. As always, please reach out if you have any questions and have a great weekend!

Warm regards,

Anna DeRoos
Dean of Students/Covid Liaison