



Jeremy Decker
Superintendent

August 20, 2021

**BOARD OF
TRUSTEES**

Stephanie
Ahmad
Rich Carnation
Bill Adams

Eric Heitz
Malinalli Lopez

Lois Standing
Chief Business
Officer

Lisa Saxon
Director of
Educational
Services

Debra Ryan
Director of Special
Education

Chris Meredith
Director of
Human Resources

Brad Rigney
Instructional and
information
Technology
Services Director



Windsor Unified
School District

Dear Windsor Unified School District Community,

For many of our families and students, the first full week of school has been an incredibly positive experience and a welcome return to some semblance of normalcy. For those families personally impacted by Covid-19 during the first week of school, this has been a tough week as we continue to grapple with the effects of Covid-19.

We recognize that it is difficult for our families to navigate all of the complex guidance that we have received from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). In all transparency, it is difficult for the school district as well. We find ourselves in a similar position to last school year in which we are building the Covid-19 protocol plane while in mid-air. In this letter I will attempt to provide clarity on a number of different topics. I would like to reiterate to everyone that the school district does not create the guidelines related to managing Covid-19 in the school setting. We receive our guidance from the CDPH, and the Sonoma County Department of Public Health (SCDPH). Our role is to implement the guidance as prescribed to us by these entities.

Covid-19 Tests

In our first week, we have administered over 600 tests at our school sites. We are currently providing free tests to all Windsor Unified staff, students, and associated family members regardless of whether or not you have insurance. Please come utilize this fantastic service that we are providing. After the first week of providing testing, we have had some critical learnings, and will be modifying the locations that testing is provided. Testing will continue to be provided from 7:30-11:30 a.m., and will be offered at each of the following sites:

- Monday: Windsor High School
- Tuesday: Cali Calmécac
- Wednesday: Windsor Middle School
- Thursday: Windsor High School
- Friday: Windsor Middle School

In my previous letter, I stated that *“If you do not wish to have your student tested, you must fill out the opt-out form... and return it immediately to the main office of the school site.”* This statement created confusion, and I would like to elaborate on what the testing protocols will be. The parents of any student aged 12 and under will be notified **prior** to their child receiving a Covid-19 test. Should you desire to not have your child be tested, you will have the option to decline the test during this call or by filling out the opt-out form. Should you turn in an opt-out form, we will not call to ask your permission, we will simply not test your child.

For students aged 13 and older, the CDPH indicates that *“Because SARS-CoV2 is recognized as a communicable disease, which is required to be reported, California state law provides that minors 13 years and older can consent to diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19.”* The CDPH appears to be relying upon California Family Code Section 6926 in providing this guidance. Therefore, students aged 13 or older are eligible to receive a Covid-19 test without parental consent.



9291 Old Redwood Highway Building 500 Windsor, CA 95492-9217
 P: 707.837.7700
 F: 707.838.4031
 www.wusd.org

Notification Process

Should your child be found to have been a close contact of someone who had a positive Covid-19 test, you will be notified by the site administration within 24 hours via a recorded message, email, and text message. In this communication, it will explain what occurred, and what is required of your child. Only the families of those students who have been exposed will receive a communication.

Covid-19 Management at School

This week, we have had a number of students exposed to Covid-19, and have had to engage in having the student quarantine, or be placed on a modified quarantine. The decision of whether or not the student is required to quarantine is ultimately made by the Sonoma County Department of Public Health. The process is as follows:

1. The school district is notified that an individual who has tested positive for Covid-19 has potentially been in contact with our students (or staff).
2. District staff member interviews the affected individual and fills out the investigative form to determine which students came into contact with this affected individual while they were contagious.
3. Contact tracing begins.
4. SCDPH and CDPH are contacted, and district staff relays the findings from the investigation.
5. SCDPH and CDPH dictate which students (or staff) are required to quarantine.

SCDPH and CDPH follow very specific rules for who is required to quarantine, and these rules are based on the following variables: vaccination status, masks, symptoms, and close contact (up to 15 minutes in 24 hours at 6 feet or less). Below you will find a table that explains a number of different scenarios, and the required actions to be taken:

Covid-19 positive	Mandatory quarantine until...	Requirement 1	&	Requirement 2	&	Requirement 3	
		Wait 10 days		At least 24 hours without a fever (Below 100.4)		All symptoms improve	
Covid-19 symptoms <small>(Fever, cough, difficulty breathing, achy, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, etc.)</small>	Stay home and test or...	Option 1	or	Option 2	or	Option 3	
		Wait 10 days		Test negative + no symptoms for 24 hours		Alternative diagnosis by a medical professional	
Close contact with someone who has tested positive <small>(up to 15 minutes in 24 hours at 6 feet or less)</small>	Staff or student vaccinated	Mask	No quarantine				
		No Mask	No quarantine				
	Student only un-vaccinated	Masks on both	Modified quarantine	Can attend school if asymptomatic, test 2x per week for 10 days, no extracurricular activities (sports, clubs, etc.)			
		1 or both without a mask	Student quarantine	Can attend school in 10 days without a test or 7 days with a negative test on day 5 or later			

Essentially, the guidance from CDPH makes it much more likely that a student will be able to continue their education if they are vaccinated and masked. For extracurricular activities, should a student come into close contact with a Covid-19 positive individual, the only way to ensure eligibility, if asymptomatic, is to be vaccinated. If a student is wearing a mask, indoors or outdoors, but unvaccinated, when they come into



close contact with a Covid-19 positive individual they will be allowed to do a modified quarantine. However, a modified quarantine means that they cannot participate in any extracurricular activities (sports).

Special Board Meeting

In our first 7 days of school, we have had a number of students placed on modified quarantine, and students who have had to be sent home to quarantine. Obviously, this is concerning as it is difficult for students to be successful if they are missing in person instruction. Therefore, the district will be scheduling a special board meeting during the week of August 30-September 3 (exact date to be determined) to discuss whether or not Windsor Unified should implement stricter guidelines than those that have been provided by the CDPH. The meeting will be held at 9291 Old Redwood Highway, Building 400, Windsor, CA 95492. More details to follow.

There seems to be a lot of misunderstanding and misinformation in our community regarding mandated Covid-19 school protocols, and I feel it is prudent to make sure that you are all armed with the facts. I, like you, had hoped that we were going to be able to put Covid-19 behind us for the 2021-22 school year, but that doesn't seem to be in the cards for us. We are going to need to band together once again to make sure that we are doing everything in our power to help our students find success this year. Where we have flexibility, we will work to fine tune our Covid-19 systems and protocols to maximize student access to in-person learning. Thank you for your resolve, and your understanding as we work through this changing guidance.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Decker

Superintendent