

Dear Oakwood Family & Staff,

In order to decrease the amount of learning loss we have experienced during this pandemic we plan to make some changes to our COVID-19 protocols that are currently in place. Please note that we are still working hard to plan and prepare for these changes. The following are the outline of these changes that we hope to start at the beginning of next semester. Please note that these changes, while allowing more in-person learning, still adhere to the guidelines and mandates that we are required to follow.

Children identified as close contacts in the school setting:

- We will now provide an option for your child to participate in “test to stay.” If the parent/guardian chooses “test to stay” then the following procedures will be followed:
 - **The child will need to have a signed permission slip on file that allows staff to perform rapid covid-19 testing.**
 - The child will need to report to the designated area on the assigned mornings (days 1,3,5,and 7) after the last exposure. The nurses will send home a form with those days defined for the parent.
 - Your child will have a rapid test conducted and as long as that test is negative and they are asymptomatic they will be allowed to attend class.
 - If they are symptomatic the student will be sent home for the remainder of the exclusion period
 - If they test positive they will be sent home to isolate for a 10 day period per LHD orders.
- If the parent chooses to opt out of the test to stay program then the student will need to complete 7 days at home and may return on day 8 with a negative PCR test (not rapid) on day 6 (or after) of exclusion. This test will need to be completed through a community provider.
- Parents choosing not to get their children tested at all will need to keep their children home for 10 days from the last date of exposure & they may return to school on day 11. If this option is chosen, students will not be able to return to sports until day 15.

Children identified as close contacts outside of the school setting:

- These students will NOT be eligible for the test to stay program. These students will need to complete the 7 day exclusion at home with a PCR test (not rapid) on day 6 (or after) from a community provider and may return to in person learning on day 8.
 - When exposed outside of school the amount and level of contact is unknown. It is also impossible to monitor for any further exposure to that positive person. Because of this, the risk of having the student here in the building is too great for the test to stay protocol.
- Students that have a positive in the household will continue to follow the same exclusion procedures. They will need to be excluded for 7 days with a PCR test on day 6 (or after) to return on day 8. If the student is unable to isolate away from the positive in the

household then they will follow the extended exclusion protocol and the school nurse will advise you of the return date.

Children presenting with symptoms while at school:

- Once sufficient testing supplies have been secured for the district the nurses will begin to offer rapid tests for students that are ill.
- Rapid tests do have the risk of inaccuracy with false negative results. If a child is heavily symptomatic and has symptoms that are unexplainable, the nurse will require the student to be sent home and tested in a clinic setting with a PCR test.
 - PCR tests are more reliable in detecting infections that a rapid may miss.

More information:

- Information and permission slips for the test to stay procedure will be sent home for parents to sign over the holiday break.
 - Students must turn these in upon return to school. If there is no consent on file to test a student the parent will be notified and the student will be sent home. If the parent chooses to sign the form the student may return.
- **At NO time will testing be done without written consent from the parent/guardian.**
- Fully Vaccinated individuals & those that are within their 90 days of a lab verified COVID-19 infection are not excluded from school for close contact situations. Please make sure that the school is aware of either of these situations.
- Fully vaccinated students are excluded from school if they are symptomatic until they have a negative test result.
- At this time the priority is to keep students in school and learning. Once a sufficient supply of testing and trained staff are available we will begin to offer rapid testing to staff as well.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact our district nurses:

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