



Group Tracing Approach for Close Contact Notification for Students

DATE: _____

Dear Families,

_____ (school/dept) considers the health and well-being of our students and staff a priority. Please be assured that we are committed to facilitating an optimal learning experience while ensuring the safety of our students and staff.

We are alerting you that _____ (school/dept) has had more than 5 cases of positive COVID 19 students or staff on its site in the past week. Due to privacy laws, information regarding these individuals' identity cannot be released. Infections diagnosed in students and school staff are not necessarily the result of exposure at school. In fact, schools are considered safe places to prevent infection between individuals, because safety protocols are followed at school and supervised.

Because of the high number of cases, many staff and students on our campus may have been exposed (for longer than 15 minutes within 6 feet) to one or more individuals diagnosed with COVID-19. District health staff assist the local health department with this process of identifying close contacts; however during this time of high case rates, it is possible that not all close contacts will be identified.

We are following public health recommendations to ensure that those with COVID-19 follow instructions for isolation and they will remain away from school (and elsewhere) until it is safe to return.

What does this mean for you and your child?

- **Your child may remain in school unless they develop symptoms or test positive for COVID-19.** Being exposed to somebody with COVID-19 does not necessarily mean that your child will become infected. In fact, scientific research and experience from around the country – including from California during this school year – demonstrate that schools remain among the safest places for children to be, because all are wearing masks and our rooms are well-ventilated.
- If your child is fully vaccinated or is within 90 days of lab-confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis, your child does not need to quarantine when notified of close contact, as long as your



child can wear a mask indoors. Your child may remain in school, as long as there are no symptoms.

- For all unvaccinated students receiving this notice of possible exposure, COVID testing should be done once a week. Your child can remain in school if tests are negative. Please strongly consider signing your child up for the District-sponsored weekly COVID 19 testing at the school site. Alternative testing options for your child are home-testing kits as well as any public health, private medical, or other community testing site. For more information on testing programs at school, visit our District Testing Website here: https://www.sandiegounified.org/covid-19_status/covid-19_testing
- **If your child develops [symptoms of COVID-19](#) or tests positive for COVID-19, please ensure they [isolate](#) at home immediately and notify your school right away.** When you notify us, we can take additional steps to keep our school community safe. We will give you a date when your child can return and if your child needs to be tested.
- **If you haven't done so yet, we highly recommend your child get vaccinated against COVID-19.** If your child is 12 years of age or older, a booster dose is recommended five months after the second dose. Vaccinations against COVID-19 remain the best way to protect against the spread of this virus and against severe disease. [Make an appointment to get vaccinated](#) or contact your child's doctor or healthcare provider to learn more. We also offer vaccines at some district sites. You can visit our district COVID Vaccine website here: <https://sites.google.com/sandi.net/nursingwellness/covid-19-vaccine>

We will continue to provide you with regular updates as needed.