

Ellerhorst Elementary School

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Dear Ellerhorst Families,

We at Ellerhorst would like to thank everyone for bearing through what has been a difficult start to this new 2022. We wish you all to stay safe, continue wearing masks, and support each other as we get through the next few days and weeks.

We also have new masking requirements. While staff are required to wear N95 or KN95 masks at school, this week, **students will be provided surgical masks**. We will supply surgical masks to all students once we receive them (they are expected by early next week). We have enough masks for each student to have one each day. Cloth masks alone are shown not to prevent the newest strain of COVID. If a child wants to wear a cloth mask, they are required to wear a surgical mask underneath. Children will have the option to wear a N95 or KN95.

We are looking forward to this week when many of our students will be returning to school after their required quarantine period. As to quarantine periods, there has been some confusion as to our protocols around quarantines. That information is below. Allow me to highlight that if your child is vaccinated, they will miss less school.

We understand that the district Response Team has been extremely overwhelmed these past two weeks and this has caused frustration and confusion for many students and families, especially when it related to communication to families about “close contacts.” We have reviewed our procedures in light of the current situation, and we look to improve our communications regarding quarantines, exposures, and keeping your child safe while keeping them engaged in learning.

We will do our best to work within the guidelines below, but it will require your cooperation. I have highlighted the important information that hopefully clarifies how long your child will need to be out depending on the steps that have been taken by you to vaccinate and/or test your child.

Isolation and Quarantine Recommendations

Table 1

Persons Who Test Positive for COVID-19 (Isolation)	Recommended Action
<p>Everyone, regardless of vaccination status, previous infection or lack of symptoms.</p> <p><i>Positive Test Date = Day 0</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Stay home (PDF) for 10 days.● Isolation can end after day 5 if symptoms are not present or are resolving and a diagnostic specimen* collected on day 5 or later tests negative.● If unable to test or choosing not to test, and symptoms are not present or are resolving, isolation can end after day 10.● If fever is present, isolation should be continued until fever resolves.● If symptoms, other than fever, are not resolving, continue to isolate until symptoms are resolving or until after day 10.● Wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings <p>*Antigen test preferred.</p> <p>See: CDPH Self Isolation Instructions</p>

Table 2

Persons Who are Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 (Quarantine)	Recommended Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unvaccinated; OR • Vaccinated and booster-eligible but have not yet received their booster dose. <p>(Refer to CDC COVID-19 Booster Shots to determine who is booster eligible)</p> <p><i>Exposure Date = Day 0</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay home for 10 days, after your last contact with a person who has COVID-19. • Option to Return: Test on day 5. • Quarantine can end <u>after</u> day 5 if symptoms are not present and a diagnostic specimen collected on day 5 or later tests negative. • If unable to test or choosing not to test, and symptoms are not present, quarantine can end <u>after</u> day 10. • Wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days, especially in indoor settings (see Section below on masking for additional information). • Strongly encouraged to get vaccinated or boosted. • If testing positive, follow isolation recommendations above. • If symptoms develop, test and stay home.

Close Contact

- These guidelines related to exposures that are a “close contact.” Someone has had a close contact if they were **within six feet** of a COVID-19 case for a cumulative **total of 15 minutes or greater** in any 24-hour period.

Table 3

Persons Who are Exposed to Someone with COVID-19 (No Quarantine)	Recommended Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Boosted; OR• Vaccinated, but not yet booster-eligible. <p>(Refer to CDC COVID-19 Booster Shots to determine who is booster-eligible)</p> <p><i>Exposure Date = Day 0</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A fully vaccinated person does not need to quarantine if they do not show symptoms.• Recommended: Test on day 5.• Wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days, especially in indoor settings• If testing positive, follow isolation recommendations above.• If symptoms develop, test and stay home.

Exposed persons, whether quarantined or not:

- Should consider testing as soon as possible to determine infection status and follow all isolation recommendations above if tested positive. Knowing one is infected early during quarantine enables (a) earlier access to treatment options, if indicated (especially for those that may be at risk for severe illness), and (b) notification of exposed persons ("close contacts") who may also benefit by knowing if they are infected.
- If developing symptoms, should also:
 - Self-isolate and test as soon as possible (do not wait until 5 days after exposure to retest if symptoms develop earlier); AND
 - Continue to self-isolate if the test result is positive, and contact their healthcare provider regarding available treatments and any questions concerning their care.

We really appreciate your patience, understanding and flexibility during this time. Ellerhorst teachers and staff have gone above and beyond the call of duty to keep your child safe while working with the students who have come everyday. We will get through this together.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this information. I am accessible through ClassDojo, email, or a call to the office during school hours.

Thank you, and have a great weekend.

Sincerely,

Greg Whaling, Principal