

Expanded Student Testing Helps Keep Kids in School

October 5, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We want to thank you for your partnership this year in keeping our schools open and our students in school.

A few weeks ago, our district received an initial shipment of COVID-19 rapid test kits that has enabled us to test students who were exposed to a positive COVID-19 case at school and were identified as a close contact. This student testing program has played an important role in keeping students in class on a modified quarantine as outlined in the [California Department of Public Health's K-12 School Guidance](#) that was revised most recently on September 22, 2021.

I am pleased to report that our district recently received a second shipment of COVID-19 rapid test kits for students from the State of California. **This will enable us to expand student testing by offering drop-in testing for students who were sent home with COVID-19 symptoms but have improved symptoms and can return to school with proof of a negative COVID-19 test.** This testing will be free of charge, and will be available in front of our District Office, 500 Dyer Street in Old Orcutt, between 7:30 and 8:15 each morning, beginning on Thursday, October 7. The student's parent or guardian will need to be present during testing.

To be eligible for either close contact testing at school sites, or drop-in testing at the district office, students must be registered with Primary Health prior to participation. **Parents/guardians are highly encouraged to pre-register your student now in case testing is needed at some point during the school year.** The link to register for testing is:

<https://bit.ly/3hWrZ2n>

Thank you again for your partnership. I know you will agree that we need to take every possible measure to keep your children -- our students -- safely in school.

Sincerely and respectfully,

Holly Edds, Ed.D.
District Superintendent