



ORCUTT Union School District

Where a Dedicated Staff Means Kids Come First

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January 21, 2022

Hello Orcutt Union School District Community,

I'm Holly Edds, your Superintendent, and I want to provide a few updates for you about what is happening in our district.

First, thank you for your continued patience and partnership as we continue to navigate the daily challenges of operating schools in a pandemic. We could not do this without you!

We continue to offer drop-in COVID-19 testing using an antigen test between 7:00-8:15 a.m. on school days at Orcutt Junior High School.

We also distributed COVID-19 at home tests to families beginning last week using a drive-through format. The at-home test kits are an extra tool your family can use should someone be experiencing symptoms or if they are exposed outside of school. The test kits were provided by the California Department of Public Health and there is one kit per student. Each test kit contains two tests. If your family was unable to pick up your at-home test kit during our drive-through distribution, you may pick one up during regular business hours at our District Office, 500 Dyer Street in Orcutt next week (between 7:30-4:30). You will need to provide the student's first and last name and the school they attend. The at-home test kits are an additional layer of protection, and we encourage you to register the test and report the results following the instructions included in the kit.

The at-home tests cannot be used to return students to school after testing positive. We do need results from a test administered by the Santa Barbara County Department of Public Health, from a medical provider, or from our drop-in testing that is offered on school days in order to allow a student to return to school prior to completing the full quarantine period. Students that have tested positive can return on Day 11 without a test. They can return as early as Day 6 with a negative test on or after Day 5 and are fever free for 24 hours and symptoms have improved.

If you aren't aware, there is a new program that launched earlier this week that provides four free tests per household through the United States Postal Service. To order tests for your household, you can go to <https://www.covidtests.gov/> to order.

We have received some questions about modified quarantine and the testing required if a student is identified as a close contact. A close contact is a student that has been within six feet for 15 minutes or more over a 24 hour period, indoors, with another person who has tested positive. Both parties must have been wearing a face covering at all times.

In the case of a close contact, if the student is able to stay in school under a modified quarantine as long as they test twice during the quarantine period. Students that have a registered positive test on file within the past 90 days do not need to participate in testing or quarantine. Testing is optional for students that are fully vaccinated. If there are three or more cases in a classroom, the entire class is considered to be a close contact. We provide this testing during the school day if the parent has provided consent in the Primary Health testing system. Parents will be notified using ParentSquare if their child is identified as a close contact. Consent is good for the entire school year, you should not need to re-register if you have already done so. The school will send you a notification letter if your child is identified as a close contact.

We appreciate your patience as we continue to implement the latest K-12 Schools guidance and health orders from the California Department of Public Health and the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department. As a district, we continue to make decisions that are grounded in our objective to keep our schools open and keep our students and staff safely in school for in-person instruction.

Thank you again for your continued patience, grace, and partnership as we work together in these challenging times. I continue to be honored to work with this incredible team we have here in the district, and to serve the Orcutt community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Holly Edds
Superintendent