



# ENTERPRISE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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*Empowering every child, every day to create a better world*

September 4, 2021

Dear Enterprise Families,

Today's message is to share our plan for COVID-19 student testing in order to safely keep them in class as much as possible. I want to acknowledge how frustrating and confusing the circumstances are, and I apologize for bringing more new information. It may take a couple of weeks for this to become familiar, but I'm confident this system can run smoothly.

We have already had over 100 positive cases and about one-third of our students and staff in quarantine as a result. Our staffing shortages are the biggest threat we face in being able to keep our doors open. I am so appreciative of how our remaining staff have pulled together to cover for each other and keep our students in class. We are definitely seeing higher numbers with the Delta variant. We've been consulting with and reviewing our data with Shasta County Public Health, and in almost every case, the infections occurred outside of school. It does seem that masks are significantly limiting the spread of cases at school. We are also making additional changes to limit mixing student groups and maximize space wherever we can.

Last year, students on quarantine had to stay home for 10 days. This year if your child is identified as a close contact, you will receive a letter of notification and then there are 2 choices:

1. The student can stay home for the 10-day quarantine period. We hope you will eventually feel comfortable sending them back with our protocols in place if you don't already.
2. Students may return to school under a **modified quarantine** which requires that students continue wearing a mask, aren't experiencing symptoms, and test twice weekly.

In my last message, I communicated that we were overwhelmed with numbers and couldn't keep up with testing. We have now trained enough staff to offer student testing on a regular basis at your child's school. We made a few changes to streamline the process. Families can still choose to take their student for testing somewhere else and share proof of testing with the school. Unfortunately, students can't return to school during those 10 days if they aren't tested. We recognize what a tremendous burden that is on busy families. That's why we've taken the initiative to offer testing to students at the school site.

We must have parent consent in order to test students for COVID-19. You can fill the consent out online in the [PowerSchool Parent Portal](#) or sign a hard copy in the office. You only need to do this once. If you have already filled one out, you do not need to do it again. If you change your mind at some point, you can always call the school office to withdraw your consent. Otherwise, if you receive a notification that your child is eligible for a modified quarantine, you don't have to worry about signing up for a test. We will test those classes or students at some point during the school day, twice within the week's time. After that, no news is good news. You will only hear from us if the test comes back positive, at which point you will receive a personal phone call. I want to acknowledge our staff members who have willingly agreed to take on this extra responsibility. They are doing it so that we can keep your children in the classroom which we all agree is the best place for them to learn.

I hope this helps relieve some of the anxiety you are probably feeling as parents. Our promise to you is that we will do everything possible to make sure our students can be in school safely as much as possible. If we find that this process doesn't work, we will come up with a new plan. If you have concerns, we want to hear about them.

I sincerely thank you for your cooperation and trust that you will have a wonderful and safe 3-day weekend with your loved ones.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather A. Armelino".

Heather Armelino,  
Superintendent