



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.

January 14, 2022



Universal Marin Schools COVID-19 Exposure Notice | Omicron Surge

Dear Marin School Community:

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Since Fall 2020, Marin County schools have successfully implemented COVID-19 health protocols to create safer environments for students and staff. This multi-layered approach, including vaccinations and boosters, wearing high-quality well-fitting masks, staying home and testing if symptomatic, and improving indoor air quality, have kept classrooms open and in-school transmission low.

As Omicron surges in our community, Marin County Public Health estimates that one in every 20-25 people in our County is currently infected. Due to high vaccination rates, fewer than 1 in 1000 infected Marin residents is hospitalized, which is comparable to influenza. No Marin children have been hospitalized with Omicron.

Local case investigations have shown that most COVID infections among students and staff occur outside of school, and are from household exposures, private indoor gatherings and higher-risk activities including sports.

For these reasons Marin County Public Health recommends suspending notification for low-risk classroom exposures. Parents / guardians should monitor themselves and their children daily for COVID-19 symptoms. They should stay home, test, and report positive results to their school. Families and schools should identify and notify social close contacts (e.g., known friends, carpool partners) of exposures. Schools should also notify families of exposures in higher-risk activities (e.g., sports and child care settings).

Marin County Public Health does not recommend testing all students and staff who have been exposed in classroom settings. Students and staff who are known close contacts or who have been exposed in higher-risk activities should test on day 5 after their last exposure (or sooner if they develop symptoms).

Schools remain among the safest places for children to be. Their structured, supervised, and supportive environments provide the in-person instruction and socialization necessary for our students to thrive. On January 6th, Marin County Public Health updated [School Guidelines](#) to decrease the risk of Omicron transmission and ensure that schools remain open during this surge. We appreciate your support and partnership in keeping our schools safe.

Sincerely,

Matt Willis, MD, MPH
Health Officer

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Deputy Public Health Officer