Dear Burroughs Families:

Tomorrow all JBHS students will be receiving a box containing two free at-home COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Tests. The distribution of these kits will take place in English classes. If students do not have an English class, they will be called into the office to pick up their kit.

If students are unable to attend school Wednesday or Thursday, then their testing kit will be available for pickup at the front of school on Thursday, January 6 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. We will be set up, so that families can drive up to get the kit.

Please read the information provided by BUSD regarding these at-home tests.

Burbank Unified School District (BUSD) is requesting that all students take a COVID-19 test. Given the significant rise in cases, we understand that testing has been difficult to access for some of our families. BUSD has organized multiple testing clinics this week at various schools throughout our District for those who were not able to get tested on their own.

If your student has not be able to test (either through an at-home test purchased on your own, at one of our clinics, or through another testing center), BUSD is also sending home one at-home rapid test kit per student. Each test kit contains two rapid tests. Below are some answers to questions you may have:

What is the test kit that you are sending home? We are providing students with the enclosed “at-home-return-to-school” rapid test. The intent is that if the student has not been able to test prior to their return to school, that they use the rapid test kit to ensure they are healthy and able to return to school.

When should these tests be administered? You should use these tests if the student has not been able to test within the last week (either through an at-home test purchased on your own, at one of the BUSD clinics, or through another testing center). These tests are being provided free of charge because testing is currently in high demand and has been hard to access. BUSD wants to ensure every student has access to testing.

What should I do if my student has already tested? If your student has already tested, please reserve this home test kit in case your student is exposed at a later time. Given current guidelines (which may change), they will need to provide a negative test on Day 5 after exposure in order to return to school.

If I need to use this test, how do I actually test? Participants gently swab the inside of each nostril with a cotton test swab. Only 1/2 inch of the testing swab needs to be inserted and participants can do the swabbing themselves. The testing swab is then inserted into a test card. Results are ready within 15-30 minutes.

Who administers the tests? Participants can either self-administer or have a guardian help if a younger child needs help.

Is there a cost to use this kit? There is NO cost. These kits were provided by The California Department of Public Health.

When will the results be available? The test results are ready within 15-30 minutes.

Will this be uncomfortable for students? No. Students as young as kindergarten-age are able to swab their own noses. The swab only needs to be inserted as far as the cotton tip (less than 1/2 an inch). This is NOT an invasive swab.

What if a student is vaccinated? Do they need to be tested? Yes. Evidence indicates that fully vaccinated individuals can both contract and spread COVID-19. With the significant increase in COVID-19 cases due to the Omicron variant, the recommendation is that both individuals who have been vaccinated and those who have not yet been fully vaccinated continue to test for COVID-19.

How can students report their results? We STRONGLY encourage students and families to self-report their at-home test results via the Primary Platform (https://primary.health/covid-testing-for-california-schools-parent-resources/), but this is not a requirement. This online platform allows individuals to securely consent to testing and report their results automatically to state and local health jurisdictions (including photos of test results). If you receive a positive home test, please remain home and notify your school nurse. We recommend you contact your medical provider for a PCR confirmation (you cannot use our clinics if you test positive on a home test).

What do I do if the student tests positive on the at-home rapid test? If you test positive for COVID, you need to stay home and notify the school of your COVID status. You will likely be asked to confirm the result with a PCR test. The school may ask you additional questions to help determine when it is safe for your child to return to school and about other people who may have been exposed. People with COVID-19 have a wide range of reported symptoms from mild symptoms to severe illness. Symptoms may appear 2-14 days after exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19. Individuals who are symptomatic, test positive, and have a known exposure to COVID-19 are advised to immediately isolate. Please remember that if you test positive or have symptoms, you may not attend a BUSD clinic as we are trying to reduce spread.