

Dear Challenge School families,

Jan 6, 2022

As the Covid infection rate is rising sharply in our community, Challenge School is taking all precautions as much as possible. We continue to follow strict guidelines from both CDC and San Mateo Healthcare department, and we urge families to work together to brace through this difficult period.

We strongly recommend families who have traveled, attended gatherings, experienced symptoms, or suspect exposure obtain **a negative test before returning to school**. If there is any doubt about your child's health, please keep them home.

The Omicron variant presents different challenges for schools. Symptoms mirror the common cold for many people. We are asking families to treat cold-like symptoms as Covid. **If your child has any cold-like symptoms, your child will need to stay home and get a test for Covid** before returning to school. This is the same for our staff. Besides symptoms, please isolate and report to us if you or your child are identified as Covid close contacts. CDC has changed the [quarantine guidelines](#) for close contact. But for Challenge School, we continue to ask the close contact to quarantine and get a negative test on the fifth day before returning.

This is a very difficult period, we will see cases from staff, children, and families. We all need to follow the COVID policy strictly and if possible, screen testing as much as possible, before returning to school. To summarize here is when you should get a test: **(Pls also refer to Appendix A for quarantine schedule)**

- Experience cold-like symptoms (test immediately)
- Have an un-masked social gathering outside your household Travel
- Either your child and yourself is a close contact or have a case
- If you have the capability, pls perform weekly screening for your child

We understand there is a hard time locating a test right now; this is the same as our staff. We were planning to have all staff screened before returning from holiday but were not able to locate the test in a timely manner. Luckily, all of our staff are fully vaccinated and most get booster shots. We have put in order for Rapid test for our staff and will ship in next few weeks. If you have any rapid tests and willing to donate to the school, we greatly appreciated it.

That being said, the quarantine and isolation guidelines will also pose a challenge to teacher staffing. Teachers will need to quarantine for any symptoms. We will try our best to locate sub-teachers from both our network and agency. But in a very very rare case, we may need to close a classroom/school due to either exposure OR due to being short-staffed. We hope you will understand.

We appreciate the opinions, thoughts, and questions shared by our families. If you have further questions, feel free to send them to us via email or brightwheel. **Please stay home if ill, test regularly, and follow COVID policy. We can do it!!**

Sincerely,
Challenge School

Appendix A Quarantine Schedule for Challenge School

CDC published an [updated Quarantine schedule](#) on Jan 6 and California Public Health department also published the new [K-12 School guidance](#). After careful consideration, Challenge School will adopt the following policy:

	Non-vaccinated students	Fully Vaccinated students OR Fully vaccinated staff, eligible but not have booster shot	Fully vaccinated staff finished booster shot when eligible OR within 6 months period after 2nd shot
Has cold symptom	Quarantine and test immediately unless an underlying condition (e.g. allergy) w doctor note Return if 72 hours symptom-free, no medication AND A doctor note OR A negative covid test	Quarantine and test immediately unless an underlying condition (e.g. allergy) w doctor note Return 48 hours symptom-free, no medication, and negative test	Quarantine and test immediately unless an underlying condition (e.g. allergy) w doctor note Return 48 hours symptom-free, no medication and (a doctor note OR a negative covid test)
Travel	Quarantine for 5 days + Negative test after 5th day	Quarantine and Negative test on 5th day	Modified quarantine and test on 5th day
Have un-masked gathering outside social bubble	Quarantine for 5 days + Negative test after 5th day	Quarantine and Negative test on 5th day	Modified quarantine and test 5th day
Close Contact	Quarantine for 5 days + Negative test after 5th day	Quarantine and Negative test on 5th day	Modified quarantine and antigen test 5th day
Confirm Case	Quarantine for 10 days + Negative test after 10th day Or Quarantine for 14 days	Quarantine for 5 days + Negative test after 5th day and no symptom Or Quarantine for 14 days	Quarantine for 5 days + Negative test on 5th day and no symptom

Quarantine: Day 0 is the day that get exposed / the day get traveled / the day social gathering / the day sample taken when confirmed case

Modified quarantine:

-Staff who are modified quarantine can come to school provide a negative rapid test taken daily before shift starting

-Students whose household has cold symptoms should do a daily test to come to school for 72 hours

Test: PCR test is less practical for confirmed cases