



Preparing every student to thrive in a global society.

January 2, 2022

Dear East Side Community, Students and Families,

We hope you have had a restful holiday break, and we are looking forward to seeing you on January 3rd, 2022, for the start of the second semester. **This communication is to share some important information with you as we all prepare to return to school.** Due to the diligence of our community in following local and state health guidelines, we were able to keep students and staff safe during the first semester. Because of the rise in COVID-19 case counts locally, statewide and nationally, we are providing additional resources and information to ensure that the transition back to school is as smooth and safe as the first semester for all students and staff.

Free At-Home COVID-19 Test Kits for All Students

The District has now received free at-home COVID-19 test kits for all of our students. The test kits will be available for distribution to all students tomorrow, January 3. All students will receive information tomorrow during the school day on how, and where, to pick up their test kits at school. Here are some key points about the at-home tests:

- The at-home tests being provided have been approved by the FDA under Emergency Use Authorization as rapid antigen tests with results in under 30 minutes.
- There are two (2) tests per kit. Each test kit and test is intended to be used and taken by the same student. The tests should be taken 1-3 days apart as per the manufacturer's instructions for use. This program will provide the most meaningful information and protection if each of you takes the 2 tests during the first week of the semester.
- Below are instructions on how to use the at-home testing kits and how to report results.
- There is no requirement to use the rapid tests or to submit the test results to the District. We are making them available as an additional resource for students as they return to school and to keep our students and their families and our staff safe.

COVID-19 Safety Protocol

- If you are symptomatic please stay home and get tested immediately.
- Masks are required for indoor spaces for all students and staff at our campuses and the Education Center unless you are eating, drinking or working alone in an enclosed office. If you do not have a mask, please let a District staff person know and a mask will be provided to you for free.
- The California Department of Public Health has updated quarantine and isolation guidelines for COVID-19. The District is reviewing those updated guidelines, but until

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further notice, we will continue to follow a ten (10) day quarantine period for individuals who have tested positive.

- Wash your hands frequently and use hand sanitizer throughout the day.

Traveling and COVID-19 Testing Recommendations

The State of California currently recommends that all travelers arriving in or returning to California from other states or countries should follow [CDC travel guidance](#) as well as get tested 3-5 days after arrival. In addition, anyone with COVID-19 symptoms should get tested immediately and follow public health recommendations.

Testing

East Side continues to be committed to providing free testing for all staff and students at all of its sites as it has since the first semester. Additionally, Santa Clara County also offers [free COVID-19 tests](#) at multiple locations throughout the county. Please follow the link to find testing locations and schedule an appointment.

Happy New Year!

Glenn Vander Zee
Superintendent