



Liberty Union High School District

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Eric L. Volta, Superintendent

August 9, 2021

Dear LUHSD Community,

The last eight days of school have provided me some of the most memorable moments in my 32 years as an educator. To watch students reengage with teachers and staff has truly been uplifting. As a district we are trying our best to balance school as usual while operating under the current mandated [CDPH guidelines](#). Our students have been fabulous doing what has been asked of them and they should be commended. Unfortunately, you will see on our recently published positive case number dashboard we have had less than .5% of students and a few staff members test positive for COVID-19. It is important to stress that LUHSD under the leadership of all five board members is committed to remaining open for full instruction.

I understand some of you may be frustrated with the communication regarding close contacts at school. To help with notification and assistance to families we have hired more staff to follow up with those students deemed a close contact, that is, those that were within 6 feet of a positive case for 15 or more minutes. The additional staff will allow us to improve our communication home and follow up with rapid testing. In a classroom environment, there are some cases that up to 8 students could fall under the CDPH definition of a close contact. If you multiply that out by 7 or 8 classes you can see just how many contacts one positive student can have. However, because our students have been terrific wearing masks and complied when teachers have reminded them to wear their mask, most of our contacts have fallen under the “modified quarantine” category. Due to the tremendous efforts of our nurses we are learning that most transmission are occurring during “social” situations amongst friends.

As a reminder close contacts fall into three categories:

1. Vaccinated asymptomatic close contacts are not subject to quarantine.
2. When both parties were wearing a mask in any school setting in which students are supervised by school staff, unvaccinated students who are close contacts may undergo a modified quarantine as follows. They may continue to attend school for in-person instruction if they:
 - a. Are asymptomatic;
 - b. Continue to appropriately mask, as required;
 - c. Undergo at least twice weekly testing during the 10-day quarantine; and
 - d. Continue to quarantine for all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community setting.
3. Unvaccinated close contacts who were not wearing masks or for whom the infected individual was not wearing a mask during the exposure must quarantine at home.

Both modified quarantined and quarantined students may discontinue self-quarantine under the following conditions:

- a. Quarantine can end after Day 10 from the date of last exposure without testing; OR*
- b. Quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen is collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and tests negative.*

As you can see, vaccination lessens the risk of being under any County Health Services quarantine order. Vaccinations are available Monday-Friday at the Brentwood Health Center: 171 Sand Creek Rd, Suite A, Brentwood on a walk-in basis.

Our primary goal this year is to keep students in their classes and activities to the greatest extent possible. Therefore, in consultation with the Contra Costa Health Services Department we have decided not to conduct large outdoor student gatherings outside of the school day such as dances, and senior picnics for the month of August. With the transmission rates trending down, it is our hope to enter September with the ability to enjoy all that school homecomings have to offer.

Thank you for your time and patience.

Sincerely,

Eric Volta