

August 6, 2021

Dear National School District Families,

It has been a busy two-weeks with the start of the school-year, and a full in-person return of our students. As you know, South County schools were the first to open in San Diego. Thank you for your patience as we navigate the **evolving COVID-19 guidance**.

As I mentioned in my welcome back letter to families, we are monitoring and complying with the State health mandates as they relate to COVID-19; and **reopened schools with many safety precautions in place.** Unfortunately, some COVID-19 positive cases were reported on our campuses and we needed to act quickly with strict quarantine protocols.

If your child was identified as a close contact of someone identified as COVID-19 positive, you would have received a letter with mandatory quarantining instructions. If there was a COVID-19 positive case at your school, but your child was not identified as a close contact, you would have received a general notification letter. If you did not receive a letter, this means there were no COVID-19 positive cases identified at your school. We know that these notifications are disconcerting, and that they create many questions among parents. Therefore, we added a COVID-19 link to our website with the following information:

- <u>COVID-19 POSITIVE CASE TRACKING REPORT-</u> This report will be updated regularly so that you may track positive cases at our sites. **Identification of a COVID-19 positive case does not mean that the person contracted COVID-19 at school.**
- <u>COVID-19 NSD GUIDANCE CHECKLIST 2021-2022</u> This guidance checklist was **adapted from our previous safe reopening plan**; and outlines current COVID-19 practices we are following per public health guidance.
- <u>COVID-19 SCHOOL SYMPTOM SCREENING FLOWCHART-</u> This San Diego County Office of Education decision tree outlines the process that our trained Rady Children's Hospital staff follows when making **quarantine decisions.**

Quarantining can be burdensome to families, and we want to keep as many students in school as possible. Therefore, we are working to fortify our approach by implementing seating charts at lunch and requiring masks in some areas of the playground in an effort to minimize students identified as close contacts. At home, you can support our efforts by encouraging mask wearing in public and at school; and reminding your children of the importance of physical distancing and frequent handwashing. **Together we can help stop the spread of COVID-19**, especially for our unvaccinated students.

If you have additional questions about any of the procedures, please reach out to your school principal.

In partnership,

Dr. Luglangela Grady Dr. Leighangela Brady Superintendent