

January 7, 2022

To our Waverly families -

Thank you again for your support these past few days as we return to school. Waverly is staying strong together, and will continue to do so.

I'd like to share some answers to questions which have arisen in the past few days, as well as offer some points of clarity.

**How do I access my / my child's COVID test results for tests taken at Waverly?**

Please take a moment to read through the attachment for directions as to how to access test results. We had a few individuals report difficulty accessing these. Please note that should you email us for support in accessing test results, we will try our best to do so in a timely fashion, but our response may not be immediate.

**When do test results come in?**

Perhaps not surprisingly, test results are taking longer than the usual 24-36 hour turnaround. This is due to (a) the rapid rise of tests being administered, and (b) employee absences from the testing company due to COVID. And when results do come in, they arrive in batches, rather than all at once. My own test results from Monday didn't arrive until the last batch late Tuesday evening!

For this Wednesday's test, I anticipate that we may not receive all results until early in the weekend. They were not in as of this morning (Friday) at 6:45 am. Be assured we'll be hitting the refresh button frequently over the next few days.

**Do I have any homework from the last note you sent? It was a long note.**

Possibly! If you haven't already, please make sure that you have updated your child's vaccination status, including date of booster shot, on Magnus (link [HERE](#)). It is important that this information is kept up-to-date, particularly should there be a need to quarantine students due to close contact. Please do so no later than **TODAY, Friday, January 7.**

**What academic expectations should I have for my child if they need to be home for isolation or quarantine?**

As shared previously, should we need to switch a class, division, or the whole school to remote learning, be aware that we won't be able to give much warning, and this will be a disruption for all. The first day of a transition will be for planning and schedule, so families and students should not expect instruction on the first day. Remote instruction would begin on the 2nd day, and our faculty and administrators will communicate with you as to how this will look for your child.

Should a student test positive and need to isolate, or be in close contact and need to quarantine, and the rest of the class is in-person, we want to share what you can expect in terms of support for learning at home.

- The appropriate division director will connect with you by phone or email during the time of isolation / quarantine. They will see how the time away is going and if there is anything they can do to support the family.
- The division director will communicate with the teachers most directly connected to your child's educational experience and ask them to figure out some opportunities to have your child continue working in rough parallel to the curriculum that is being taught. This alignment may not be exact, but we hope it will provide the possibility of concurrent learning. For our youngest grades, teachers will first consider the needs of the students, and the focus will be more individualized.
- We will ask teachers to be in communication with remote students, whether by email or Zoom, to maintain connection and the school / home bond. Note that this will not be in the form of a remote lesson.

Please note that we will not be offering synchronous learning for individual students when on-campus learning is going on for the class. Beyond the technical challenges of this approach, my prior direct experience with such a hybrid synchronous approach is that it does not serve remote students well, and can further feelings of isolation from their peers. Additionally, our educational approach emphasizes interactive classroom learning over completion of worksheets or other filler. If you are seeking work like this for your child for their isolation / quarantine time, we encourage you to print resources from the various educational online sites publicly available.

Please also be assured that our teachers are very conscientious about not wanting students to feel like they will fall behind and miss important activities while they are home. Our dedicated educators will carefully balance the needs of all their students.

**What's the deal with 5-day vs. 10-day isolation & quarantine guidelines? Can you please clarify what Waverly's policies are with regard to these?**

Our COVID Task Force has reviewed the latest guidelines and recommendations, and both Jason Gottlieb and I received information from Dr. Goh, Director of Public Health for the Pasadena Health Department, regarding recommendation durations for isolation and quarantine.

Briefly, the recent guidelines made public regarding the shortening of isolation and quarantine were developed with critical service workers (such as police and health) in mind, and they were not created specifically to address school environments. Dr. Goh strongly encouraged schools to consider maintaining the previously established timeframes if they are able, given the increased transmissibility of the most recent variant.

Given this recommendation, and our great wish to preserve on-campus learning, we will be maintaining our current isolation and quarantine guidelines. They are as such:

**ISOLATION** - anyone who tests positive for COVID will need to stay remote for 10 days and self-isolate, regardless of vaccination status.

- We will investigate who potential close contacts are. (Close contacts are those within 6 ft. for 15 or more minutes over a 24 hour period).
- The individual may return to school after 10 days if they meet the following conditions:
  - There is no fever for 24 hours without the use of medicine.
  - There are no other signs or symptoms of COVID.
- The return to campus would be on Day 11.
- The individual will not need to complete a test to return.
- The individual is exempt from weekly on-campus screening testing for 90 days.

**QUARANTINE** - anyone who is not boosted or fully vaccinated and who has been in close contact with a COVID-positive individual in the prior two days will need to stay remote for 7 days and quarantine.

- The individual may return to school on day 8 if they meet the following conditions:
  - There is no fever for 24 hours without the use of medicine.
  - There are no other signs or symptoms of COVID.
  - There is proof of a negative PCR test taken on day 5 or later. Ideally, testing is completed at Waverly.

**QUARANTINE EXEMPTION** - anyone who is boosted, or fully vaccinated and not yet eligible for a booster, and who has been in close contact with a COVID-positive individual in the prior two days may return to campus, so long as the following conditions apply:

- The individual has no symptoms.
- The individual tests both immediately (via PCR test) and five days following, and both tests are negative.
- Symptoms are monitored for the next 14 days.

### **What is “boosted” or “fully vaccinated”?**

As per Pasadena Health Department (PHD) guidelines, “boosted” means the following:

- More than two weeks following receipt of a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Individuals are eligible for booster shots six months following a second dose, or two months following a single-dose J&J vaccine.

As per PHD guidelines, “fully vaccinated” means the following:

- More than two weeks following the receipt of a second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, or following the receipt of one dose of a single-dose J&J vaccine.

Currently, those 16-years-old and up are all eligible for booster shots following the guidelines above. If one is eligible to receive the booster but hasn't yet, that individual is not considered fully protected, and they would need to quarantine in the event of close contact.

To repeat - **as per PHD guidelines, all booster-eligible students and employees will not be considered fully protected if a booster has not been received, and would need to quarantine in the event of close contact.**

As a reminder, Waverly students and employees must follow the California guidelines of being vaccinated / boosted or completing weekly COVID tests. Vaccination and boosters are highly recommended but not required.

### **How does this booster policy apply to 12-15 year-olds?**

This age group is just now eligible to receive booster shots. That said, availability is uncertain in these early days. We highly recommend that parents of 12-15 year-olds schedule a time for their child to receive a booster right away.

As a school policy, we ask that those parents ensure that their child receives a booster by **Friday, February 14**, if they are able to do so (see above for the time gap required between the final vaccination shot and the date of a booster shot). These students would then be considered fully protected as of February 28.

Students in this age group who are not eligible for a booster due to the time gap required will be considered fully protected for the purposes of quarantining. Additionally, if this February 14 deadline cannot be reasonably reached due to unavailability of booster shots, students would still be considered fully protected for the purposes of quarantining.

### **Can parents and visitors come onto campus?**

At least for the next few weeks, we are seeking to keep visitors to an absolute minimum so as to preserve the continuity of on-campus instruction. Those parent volunteers who need to be on campus to support our program (such as lunch volunteers) may continue to do so, but we ask that they complete weekly PCR testing as a precaution. If parent volunteers are interested in doing so through Waverly's weekly testing, please contact Jason Gottlieb at [jason@thewaverlyschool.org](mailto:jason@thewaverlyschool.org).

### **Can you poke at me again about masks?**

Happy to! Be sure that your child has a well-fitting, high-quality mask. Masks must completely cover the nose and mouth, fit snugly against the sides of the face without gaps, and have a nose wire to prevent air from leaking out the top of the mask. KN95 masks, N95 masks, or other surgical-grade masks provide the greatest protection. While these masks are not a requirement for return to campus, given recent shortages and difficulties obtaining such masks, we strongly urge families to make orders now for such masks, and to ensure any mask being worn is well-fitting and high-quality. Please also note we will continue to be masking for both indoor and outdoor activity for the present time.

### **And can you remind me not to send my sick child to school?**

Yes! Be sure to continue with daily screening with Magnus (link [HERE](#)) for your child. As a reminder, signs and symptoms of COVID can include fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath,

fatigue, muscle aches, headache, loss of taste or smell, sore throat, nasal congestion, vomiting or diarrhea, and skin rashes.

Please note that this may appear as a sniffly nose or a scratchy/tickly throat, and the temptation may be to send your child to school if they have minor symptoms. **Please be sure to keep your child home even if they are displaying only mild symptoms.** So far, our Waverly families have been very cautious and thoughtful about not sending sick children to school, and we have all been very appreciative! Please continue to be conservative in your decision making. Better to be overly cautious for a mild cold than to potentially impact an entire class.

Be well,  
John Huber  
Interim Head of School