

Dear Crocker Highlands Community,

On Monday, August 9, our Crocker Cougars will be returning to campus for the 2021-22 school year. We are excited to see our students back in our classes and engaged in learning.

We know everyone coming back to in-person schooling is concerned about our safety practices and procedures. Last week, Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) hosted two [information sessions](#) about safety protocols for families. I wanted to take this opportunity to reshare those important safety guidelines:

- *Masks will continue to be required for all students and staff on campus while they are indoors. They are highly recommended outdoors, too.*
- *Students and staff should stay home if they are experiencing COVID-like symptoms, even if they are vaccinated.*
- *If a student is advised to quarantine by Health Services, the absence is treated the same way any other absence--the student's absence would be treated as Excused. If a vaccinated, asymptomatic, close contact student opts to quarantine even if they do not need to, it will be an unexcused absence.*
- *Testing is available at [10 OUSD locations](#) with additional community-based locations throughout the city. At-home testing kits will also be available at each school site. Please consider getting tested if you are feeling symptoms or have been exposed to a COVID-positive individual. You can pre-register for testing with [Primary](#).*
- *Vaccines are highly recommended for all community members, ages 12 and up. We are partnering with Alameda County to reach out to all students, staff, and families to support them with accessing the vaccine.*
- *Ventilation has been upgraded in all of our filter-based HVAC systems, and additional air purifiers have been installed in all classrooms and shared spaces.*
- *Minimize the number of caregivers/visitors who come into our school building.*

*** OUSD Welcome Back Info Session for Families**

- [Click here for a video recording of the webinar](#)
- [Click here for the presentation slides](#)

In the event that a staff member or a student tests positive for COVID-19, OUSD's Contact Tracing & Case Monitoring procedures are as follows.

1. The principal is notified.
2. The principal will notify Contact Tracing teams.
3. The Contact Tracer will interview the principal and positive person/family member, and others as needed.
4. The COVID team will meet with principal to coordinate communication to:
 - a. The individual who tested positive.
 - b. Close contacts with the individual.
 - c. Notify the community.
5. Quarantine guidance WILL differ based on vaccination status & masking compliance
 - a. Testing will be made available on site in the 2 weeks following a positive case.

In addition to the safety guidelines presented by OUSD, I would like to share some additional details about safety protocols.

- *Based on guidance we have received from our state and county public health partners, masking is optional outdoors on our campuses.*
- *In the event a student, staff member, or visitor misplaces their mask, we have disposable masks to provide.*
- *There are campus maps hung up outside at each of our entry and exit gates to let students know where to line-up each morning. [Where do I line up?](#) (Note: Kindergarten students will line up by the Big Play Structure for the first three days of school. A separate email will be sent to Kindergarten families about Balanced Beginnings.) [Kindergarten Where do I line up? First 3 Days of School](#)*
- *Students will eat outdoors, and be encouraged to space out between each other.*
- *Students will be encouraged to practice good hand hygiene, washing or sanitizing. Every classroom has hand sanitizer for students to use.*
- *Students are recommended to use reusable water bottles, instead of drinking directly from fountains.*
- *Students who participate in Music instruction with the flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, and trombone will be taught outdoors.*

At Crocker we will be following OUSD's safety guidelines. We want to work together to ensure that this new school year is safe and supportive for our students, staff, and families.

Dr. Dung Kim Nguyễn, Ed.D.

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