

January 19, 2022

A COVID Update from ABLE Superintendent Clem Lee

Greetings, ABLE Students and Families!

We continue to have positive cases among students and staff in addition to exposures to others who have symptoms or who have tested positive. The combinations are endless, and the whole thing is exhausting to our families and our staff.

Five quick points related to our current challenges with COVID:

1. When families have test results for their students those results need to be reported to our school immediately – same day. This is essential.
2. The Omicron variant is so contagious that it is entirely possible that a student or staff member can exit quarantine one day only to be exposed and re-enter quarantine protocols as soon as the next day. The guidelines we must follow treat the re-exposure of the same person as a new and separate incident subject again to quarantine.
3. A federal website just went live allowing families to order four test kits per household at no cost. The link: [COVIDtests.gov](https://www.covidtests.gov)
4. The inconveniences created by following COVID protocols are not within our control. Our health staff follows the guidelines issued and regularly updated by the Center for Disease Control (CDC, federal), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH, state), and the San Joaquin County Public Health Services (SJCPHS, county). We know all these regulations are exhausting and frustrating, and we are grateful for the patience, cooperation, and forbearance of our ABLE families!
5. That said, too often people are not patient or cooperative. Verbal abuse of ABLE staff will NOT be tolerated. If staff encounters profanity, yelling, or verbal abuse on phone calls, they are instructed to hang up. Families are doing the best they can. ABLE is doing the best it can. We all need to remain calm and courteous in dealing with one another.

Thank you, ABLE community. Godspeed.