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Dear AESD Families,

The following update is provided to keep you informed regarding the Anaheim Elementary School District:

Update on Weekly COVID-19 Data for Anaheim

Our District continues to prioritize the health and safety of stakeholders as our top priority. Although California no longer reports data within the tiered colored system, the City of Anaheim updates their data weekly. There were 5,404 new cases reported across Anaheim's seven ZIP codes for the seven days through January 11, up sharply from 2,923 the week prior.

If your child is experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please keep him/her home and contact your child's health care provider. Please contact your school to report the absence; a COVID-19 related absence is excused. If someone in your household tested positive for COVID-19 and is currently under quarantine or self-isolation, your child should follow the guidelines from the Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA) on how long to remain at home and when to return to school.

Free Take Home COVID-19 Testing Kits for All Students PK-6

All AESD schools have received an additional supply of COVID-19 antigen tests, for any families not receiving previous tests, that will be available for pick up and voluntary use as an added precaution. The California Department of Public Health is making these at-home COVID-19 testing kits available for free to local families, who are encouraged to test students at home to ensure the safety of all.

The state has developed flyers in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) that explain when to test your child and what steps to take if you get a positive test result. More information can be found on the [CDPH website](#).

Information on how the tests will be distributed will be communicated by each school directly to its families. But first we want to remind you about a couple key points:

- **There is no statewide testing mandate for students returning to school.** While some school districts in California may implement local testing policies, the state is not requiring a documented negative test to return to the classroom. The CDPH says its efforts are intended to increase access to tests for K-12 students.

- **There is no cost to families.** The tests have been purchased by the California Department of Public Health with funds provided by the federal government to support testing in schools.

Reminder: COVID-19 Testing at Key Elementary School

AESD will continue to offer free COVID-19 testing every Monday thru Friday at Key Elementary school. Testing is available daily from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Testing will also be available on Monday, January 17th from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Click [here](#) to sign up for an appointment and complete the online consent form. **Please note that this testing site is for AESD students and staff only.**

While COVID-19 tests are not mandatory for students, we encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to help provide extra safety and peace of mind as we navigate this stage of the pandemic. Moreover, the steps we take together can help ensure the safest possible learning environment for all of our students.

Reminder: COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics

Free vaccination clinics will be held at three AESD schools this month. Adult and pediatric Pfizer shots will be available for everyone over the age of 5. Click [HERE](#) to register and make an appointment.

- Olive Street School: 1/29, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Edison School: 1/12 and 2/2, 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Ponderosa School: 1/19 and 2/9, 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

On behalf of our Board of Education and staff members, thank you for your continuing support of the Anaheim Elementary School District.

Sincerely,
Dr. Christopher Downing
Superintendent