Dear Rocketship Parent/Guardians:

It has been a joy to see our campus full of Rocketeers this year! Thank you so much for trusting us with your children, and thank you for your patience and partnership during this challenging time. We know school has been more stressful for everyone this year - parents, students, and staff - as we work together to keep everyone safe. We also understand that our safety practices in handling COVID-19 cases have, at times, added to the stress of this school year. Over the last two weeks, we have reviewed our policies and gathered feedback from parents across our school community. We are implementing a number of changes to our COVID-19 health and safety guidelines that I want to share with you today.

**UPDATED QUARANTINE POLICIES**
The CDC recently updated their guidance to schools. Their previous policy included a more expansive definition of “close contacts” requiring quarantine. However, the CDC’s latest guidelines more fully consider the impact on children being sent home to quarantine. We have been using the CDC’s prior guidance at the start of school this year, and it has resulted in a disproportionately high number of students being classified as “close contacts” compared to many local districts and school networks. We understand that ongoing interruptions to in-person learning can pose a serious long-term risk to our students’ social-emotional development and academic growth. Moving forward, we are updating our policy to align with the current guidance from the CDC and California Department of Public Health, which better enables us to prioritize the needs of your whole child.

Our revised criteria and protocol for student quarantine is as follows:

- If a student tests positive for COVID-19, that student should quarantine at home for ten (10) days. They may return when they are FEVER-FREE and their SYMPTOMS HAVE IMPROVED.
- If a student is exposed to a positive case OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL, the student should quarantine at home for ten (10) days or can return to school on Day 8 if a negative test result is collected on Day 5 or after.
- If 15% of a cohort tests positive for COVID-19, that full cohort will quarantine at home. In this event, quarantine will last for seven (7) days. On the seventh day, students will return to school for a COVID-19 test, and can resume in-person learning on Day 8 with a negative test result.
We are implementing a new “modified quarantine” protocol. Under this protocol, students can remain at school. The criteria and protocol for “modified quarantine” is as follows:

- If a student is exposed to a positive case at school, the student can continue to ATTEND SCHOOL and will be tested (with consent of parent/guardian) twice a week for 10 days. Please note, this only applies to exposure in our school setting where we have several layers of protection already in place (e.g., mask wearing, ventilation, hand washing).
- The student exposed to a positive case at school MUST REMAIN ASYMPTOMATIC.
- The student CANNOT ATTEND EXTRACURRICULAR activities (such as YMCA, birthday parties, or youth sports) when in modified quarantine.

ALL LAYERS OF PROTECTION WILL REMAIN FULLY ENFORCED

We will remain vigilant with all our health and safety measures on campus, including mask wearing, ventilation, hand washing, cleaning procedures, and more. It is more important than ever that you keep your child at home if they are feeling sick or have a fever so we can reduce potential exposure to other students and staff.

UPDATE COMMUNICATIONS FOR COVID-19 CASES & CLOSE CONTACTS

For the first few weeks of this school year, we have been sending updates to the entire school community every time we experience a positive case on campus. We understand this has created more anxiety for families during an already stressful start of the school year. Moving forward, we will be publishing COVID-19 case data on our website every day. This daily website update will replace the general notification to families. To see the most current COVID-19 data for our school visit: [www.rocketshipschools.org/covid19-ca](http://www.rocketshipschools.org/covid19-ca).

You will receive direct communication only if your child is identified as a close contact. Our revised criteria for direct communication to families are as follows:

- If your student tests positive for COVID-19;
- If your student is exposed to a COVID-positive person outside of school, and is required to quarantine at home;
- If your student is exposed to a COVID-positive person at school, and is required to enter modified quarantine.

If you do not receive a direct communication regarding a COVID-19 case at our campus, your child is not a close contact and no action is required on your part.

Thank you all for your patience, flexibility, and support during this challenging time. I am so grateful for your continued trust and partnership as we work together to keep all our students safe and fully engaged in their learning, growth, and development at our school. Please stay safe, wear your mask, and continue to spread hope, love, and learning with your Rocketeer.
Thank you,
Maricela Guerrero
California Executive Director
Rocketship Public Schools