

AUSD Board Update



January 11, 2022

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Superintendent

Alameda Unified School District

Keeping Schools Open is Our Position

- Still a position shared unequivocally by public health officials and state and county education agencies
- We are in a difficult moment but this is not March of 2020
- A blanketed district-wide closure is an “outmoded level of caution”
- District closures not authorized by public health or State Department of Education
- Vaccines and boosters are widely available - please get out and get these
- Developing data continues to show omicron as a less severe variant - *this does not mean we are not taking it seriously*
- Most vulnerable currently are those unvaccinated by choice and those who are immunocompromised
- Notable upgrades to facilities and protocols since March of 2020

Moving to district-wide remote schooling when conditions on the ground have changed so dramatically would not meet our responsibilities to provide optimal education and protect ALL aspects of student health.

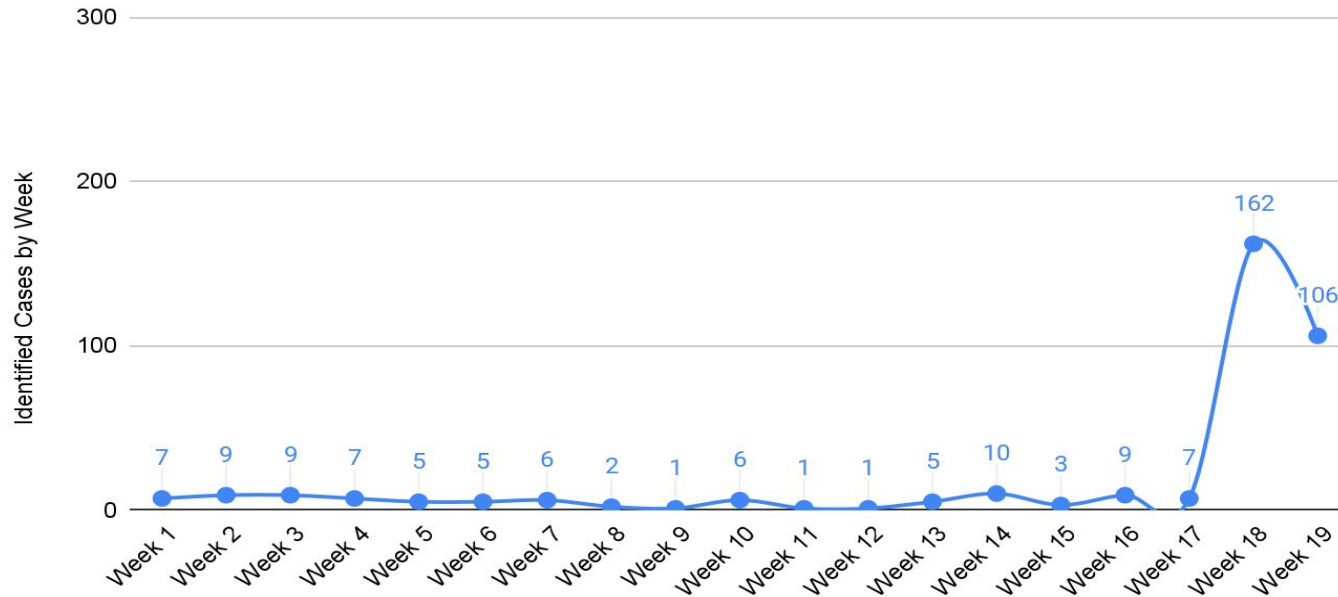
This will not be easy or without disruption but it is the right thing to do in my view.

Current Status and Efforts

- Efforts are focused exclusively on keeping schools open continuously
- **Committed to continuous in-person learning as district's position**
- Sheer volume of new cases is straining our bandwidth in the area of follow-up and testing
- Focused **temporary** quarantine interventions at the individual classroom and individual school level are assisting us in keeping the broader district moving forward with in-person instruction at this time
 - Staff attendance has been comparatively solid
 - Parents have generally been understanding to these tools as short-term actions
 - Mutual understanding and cooperation are critical to managing through the current surge

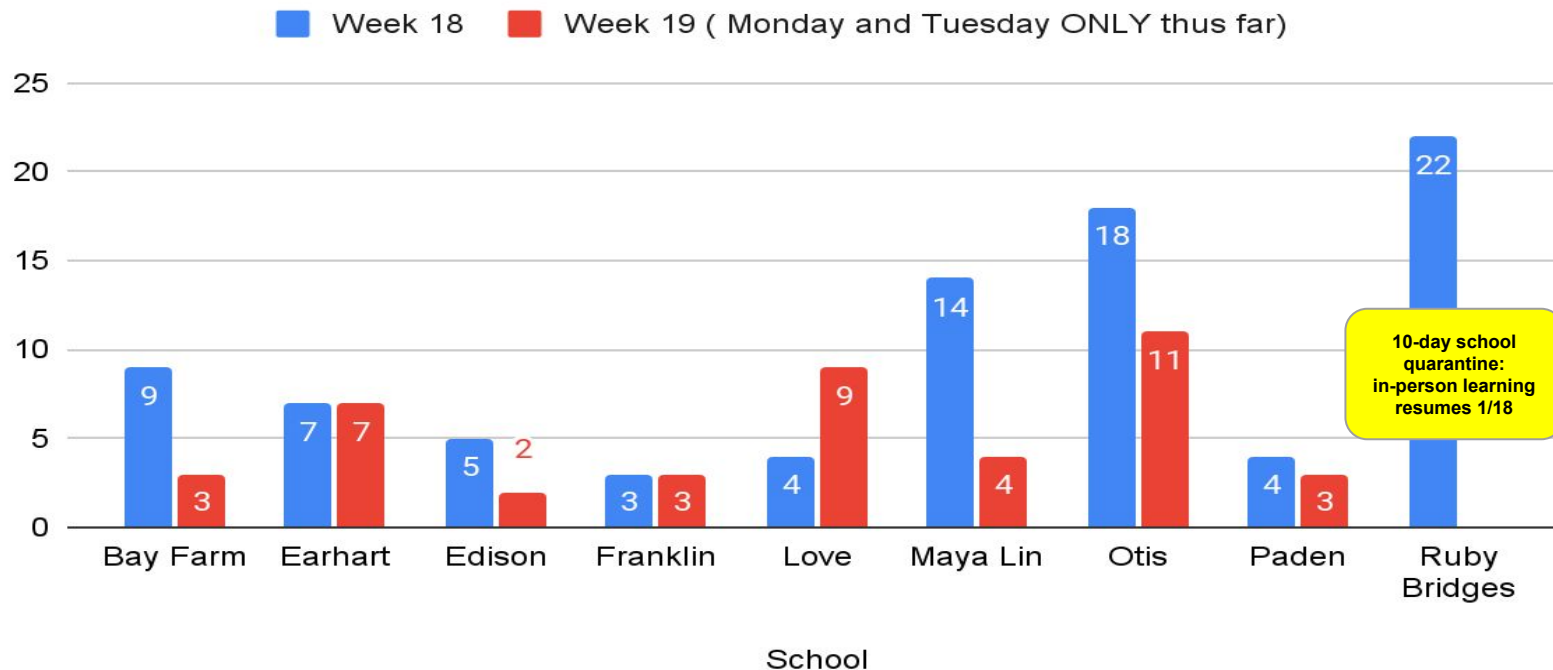
Total Cases

AUSD Total Cases School Year 21-22 (week 19 only reflects 1/10 and 1/11 thus far)



Elementary School Cases

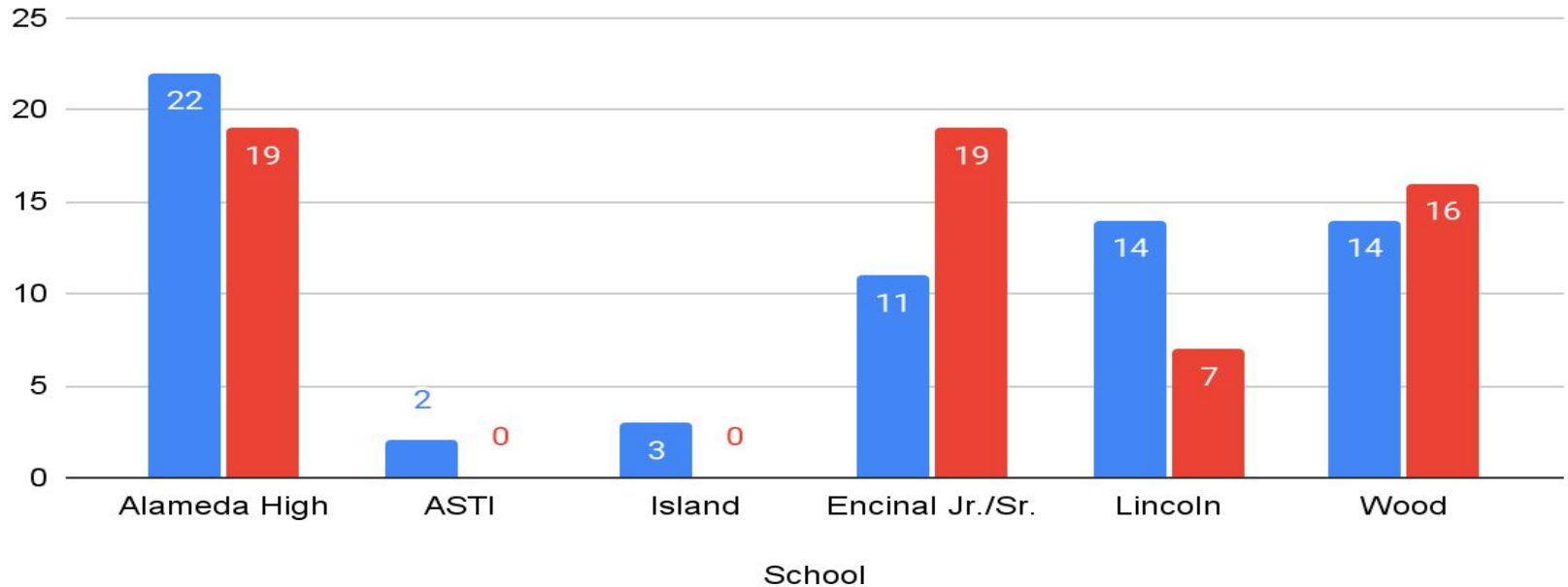
Week 18 and Week 19: Elementary School Comparison



Secondary School Cases

Week 18 vs. Week 19 Comparison

■ Week 18 ■ Week 19 (includes ONLY Monday and Tuesday so far)



A. Shortened Modified In-School Quarantine

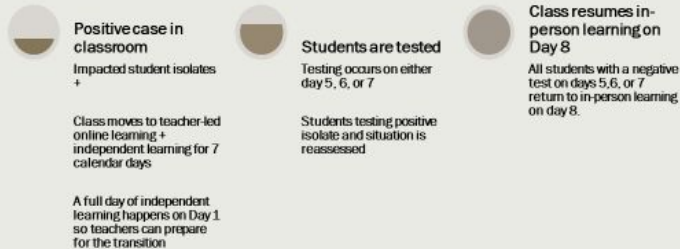
The protocol we have used this year to keep students attending despite a positive case in a class.



3 ways we respond to positive cases in classes.

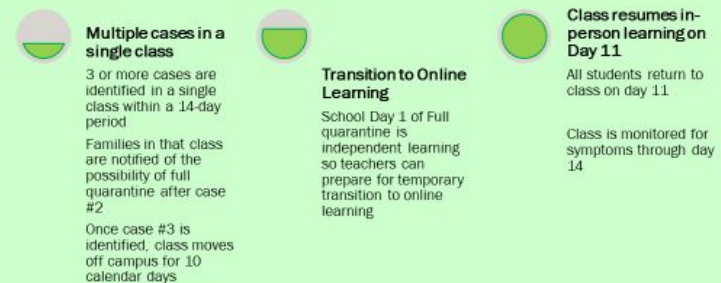
B. Temporary Home Quarantine

A second option if district testing capacity is exceeded



C. Full Quarantine

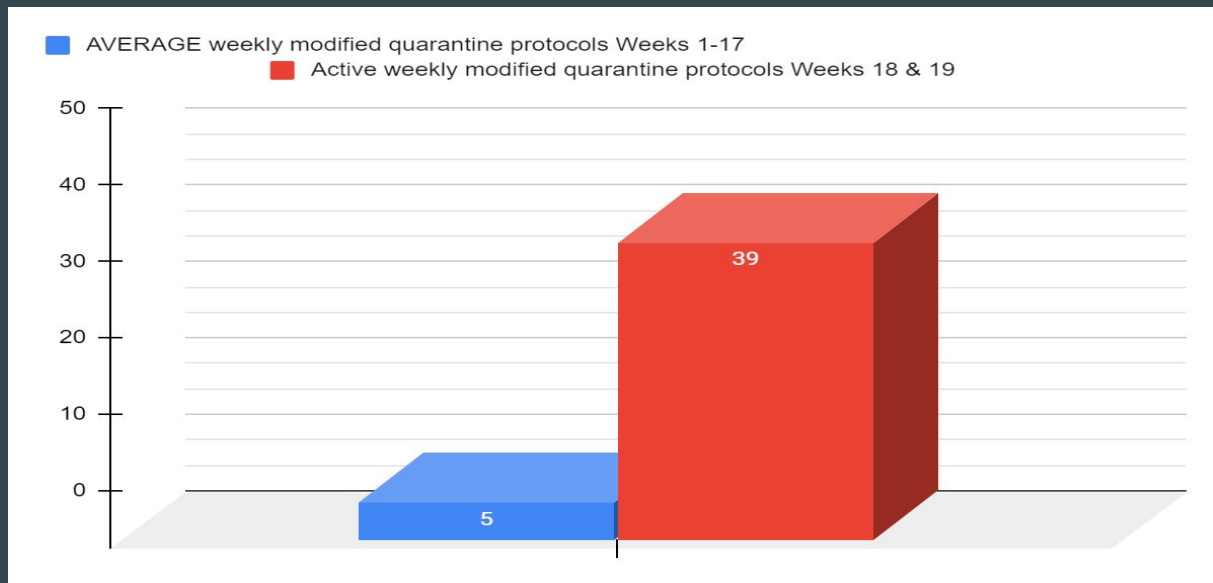
When 3 or more cases are identified in a single class within a 14-day period



Major Strain on Testing Capacity Right Now

Active modified quarantine testing needs have increased dramatically

- An average of 4-5 modified quarantine protocols per week through week 17
- This week 39 active modified quarantine protocols



Trying to Meet the Major Increase in Need for Modified Quarantine

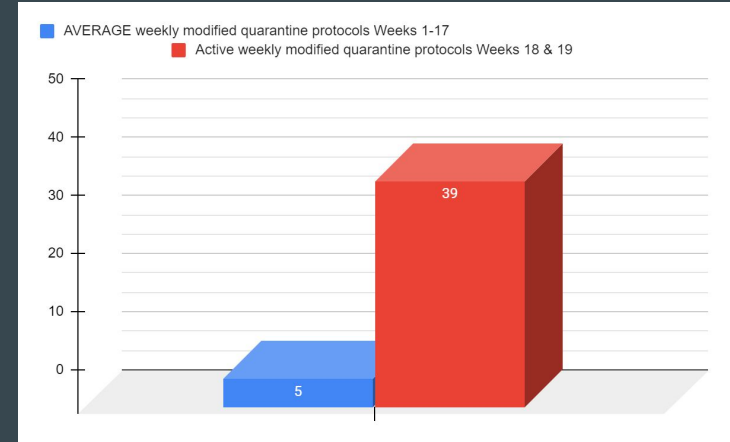
AUSD staff now supplementing National Labs Testing with staff and additional “volume” kits of rapid tests

“Volume kits” are sets of tests made for professional or event settings (these are not individually packaged rapid tests and cannot be distributed to individuals)

- 3500 tests on hand
- 5000 in transit
- 3000 on order for late January

At present we are struggling to locate and procure additional *individually* packaged rapid tests

- Ordered 9000 several months before winter break
- Unsuccessful in multiple attempts since then to procure in any useful volume
- Thinking ahead about community-wide testing options following February break



Thresholds for Temporary Quarantine of a Whole Elementary School

School	Total Classes	Number of Classes with 2 active cases (Approaching full quarantine)	Number of Classes in Full Quarantine Classes with 3 cases within a 14-day period	Number of classes in FULL QUARANTINE that would trigger whole school 10-day quarantine = $\frac{1}{3}$ of classes at the school
Bay Farm	17	2	0	6
Franklin	11	0	1	4
Earhart	22	2	0	7
Otis	25	3	2	8
Edison	19	2	1	6
Love	21	2	0	7
Maya Lin	19	2	3	6
Ruby Bridges	21	<i>7 classes with 3+ cases: school in full quarantine - in-person resumes 1/18</i>		7
Paden	16	1	0	5

Alternative Efforts for Secondary Schools

- Now recommending weekly testing for all middle and high school students
- Prioritizing and procuring upgraded face coverings for staff and students
- Encouraging vaccinations and BOOSTER shots
 - Third shot raises effectiveness against infection from Omicron
 - You can now get boosted 5 months out
 - Teenagers are eligible, including 12-15 year-olds
 - Anyone who got their second shot on 8/8/21 or earlier should now get boosted
 - A very helpful additional tool to keep us safer in the more complex structure of middle and high school
- Screen for symptoms daily and stay home when sick
- Avoid gatherings
- Mask wherever appropriate (at all times indoors and outdoors at schools)

Face Covering Upgrades

- Guidance points to upgrading to N95 or KN95 masks
- Predominantly worn in health care setting and industrial settings before pandemic
- County Office of Education is anticipating a shipment of N95 masks from state adults/young adult sizes for all students and staff in county public schools
- Upon receipt we will prioritize distribution of N95s to middle and high schools as an upgrade and in light of the fact that our class quarantine protocols are not easily applied at secondary schools
- This version of N95 will be more suitable for adults and young adults

Isolation vs. Quarantine

Reminder:

- Isolation applies to infection
- Quarantine applies to exposure or contact

New Protocols:

- Aware that county and state public health have adopted 5-day isolation for positive cases
- AUSD will update protocols once ACPHD and ACOE clarify the guidance and formally revise
- At this time while isolation could soon become 5 days QUARANTINE protocols will still be 7 or 10 days
 - Most class level or school level quarantines will be 10 days until further notice
 - AUSD testing bandwidth unlikely to be able to accommodate 7 day quarantine until further notice

Please Limit to 1 Test Per Week at AUSD Facilities Unless in Modified Quarantine

- Schedules for rotating elementary PCR tests will continue
- Modified quarantine will continue (though delays are imminent)

Some families are accessing AUSD testing 5x per week (please do not do this at this time)

- We are encouraging more testing at secondary, but need to preserve resources to accommodate that goal
- Bandwidth and supplies are being stretched to maximum capacity
- Districts across region are doing the same type of expansion so the demand is sky high regionally
- Test-site contract staffing is being stretched and thinning
- Turnaround times on results are slowing (now about 72 hours)
- Lines and wait times are increasing as the surge peaks
- Working to supplement in-school quarantine testing with rapid kits to alleviate burden on PCR sites

Temporary 7-day class quarantines may need to be implemented at the classroom level in lieu of modified quarantine as the surge peaks

Requesting All Secondary* Students **Test Weekly** Through January

COVID Test Site:	Saturday, January 8	Sunday, January 9	Monday, January 10	Tuesday, January 11	Wednesday, January 12	Thursday, January 13	Friday, January 14	Saturday, January 15
Alameda High	9am-5pm		3pm-6pm		3pm-6pm			9am-5pm
Encinal Jr/Sr	9am-5pm			3pm-6pm		3pm-6pm	3pm-6pm	9am-5pm
Wood Middle				8:30-3 (6th) 3-4:30 all students			8:30-3 (6th) 3-4:30 all students	
Lincoln Middle			8:30-3 (6th) 3-4:30 all students			8:30-3 (6th) 3-4:30 all students		

- Middle School students may test at high school centers from 4:30-6 on weekdays
- Saturday sites are available to all AUSD students regardless of your home school or grade level

* Secondary = Middle and High School

Supporting Staff So They Can Support Students and Families

Stop preaching self-care to teachers and staff and consider structural and actionable steps that can potentially support them

- Streamline and prioritize only the most mission-critical tasks
 - Showing up for kids
 - Create the best day to day experiences for students
 - Do the best that we can in this current context
 - Sub shortages have meant lost preparation time for teachers as they cover additional classes

Other actions to consider...

- Create flexibility and space for teachers to create additional sub-day plans and short term independent/online plans for unexpected absences or temporary class quarantines respectively
- Analyze current school calendar and explore/consider 1-2 additional strategically placed 1-day school breaks
 - Keeping the exact same number of instructional days but reordering
 - Adjustments would be with no less than 30 days notice to families