



# Hillside Elementary School

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Dear Hillside Families,

Over the last four days, we have seen an increase in positive COVID-19 cases. We truly understand and share the concerns this development raises, as well as the frustration with seeing students out of school and on the livestream.

The two large quarantines were a result of small group instruction both in and out of the classroom. In each case, the staff member was seated at a table with the students for more than 15 minutes with less than three feet of physical distance. Because of the “three feet, when possible” guidance, we continued this best practice to meet the needs of our students.

However, at this time, in order to limit the number of quarantines as we approach the holiday season, we will be revising small group instruction, so that, when possible, a staff member is not within 3 feet of a student for 15 minutes of close contact. Though it may require a staff member’s chair to be further away from the table or the staff member to stand while instructing, we are confident that we can continue our individualized attention to student learning in ways that ensure staff members and students need not be deemed “close contacts.”

We plan to resume typical small group instruction two weeks after our return to school on January 17, 2022. At that time, the holiday gatherings will be behind us and students may also be fully vaccinated. As you know, fully vaccinated individuals, who are asymptomatic, do not need to quarantine when exposed to a confirmed, positive COVID-19.

We have done a wonderful job keeping our students and staff happy, healthy, and thriving in a safe learning environment. This is because of our partnership as a school and community, and our commitment to doing what is best for our kids. Thank you for your continued support, flexibility, and understanding as we continue to navigate COVID-19 together.

Warm regards,

*Amy Cazes*  
Principal

*Michael LaRocco*  
Assistant Principal