



November 20, 2020

Dear Pacific Ridge Families:

I am writing today with news about our on-campus density modeling following Thanksgiving. Due to recent circumstances, the plan I shared with you on October 23 has changed.

As you know, the statewide travel advisory issued on November 13 states that individuals who travel outside the state of California should self-quarantine for 14 days upon their return. By extension, individuals who host guests from out of state also should consider staying home for 14 days after their last contact. This advisory affects a significant portion of our school community – families, faculty, and staff – who had already made travel or hosting plans for the holiday.

Due to rising case numbers and state travel advisory, the majority of our peer schools have decided to return to school after Thanksgiving remotely. While we had fully intended to return from the Thanksgiving break at 33% density, it now seems advisable to change our plan. In addition, after canvassing our faculty this week, it became clear that the late-arriving state travel advisory makes it unlikely we would be able to sufficiently staff in-person instruction the week after vacation. **Therefore, we will be operating all classes remotely from Monday, 11/30 through Monday, 12/7.**

While holding classes remotely for a week is prudent, we don't want to sacrifice a second full week of on-campus learning – if there is a way to avoid it safely. To expedite our entire community's return to campus, we are offering the following plan:

All faculty and staff will be tested between December 3 and December 7, and those who test negative will be available for on-campus teaching on December 8.

Any student who obtains a negative PCR Covid test 7 days after their return from travel or contact with anyone from outside the state may return to school once they can provide evidence of a negative result. For example, a student who travels out of state and returns on Sunday, November 29 can get tested the following weekend and return to school once they receive their test results – potentially as early as Tuesday or Wednesday, December 8 or 9. ***All tests must be taken in San Diego County and must be taken no earlier than December 3.***

All students who did not travel or host guests from outside the state must also get a PCR Covid test in order to return to campus the week of December 7. ***Those tests must be taken in San Diego County and take place on or after December 3.***

Students who choose not to get tested can learn remotely for the full 14 days, returning to campus on Monday, December 14.

We understand the inconvenience of asking our entire community to get tested. However, as our Health and Safety team has noted, routine testing during the pandemic is sensible behavior for all of us, especially during winter when our annual vacations are about to begin.

To help reduce the inconvenience, we are planning to offer testing on campus (in a way that will not involve contact) through the UCSD EXCITE program. These tests will be paid for by the school. In addition, free testing is available at Cal State San Marcos, in Del Mar, and in other locations around the county. More details about on-campus and off-campus testing and how to file test results will be shared with families soon.

While this plan was certainly not the one we hoped for, it makes sense right now. **We will announce our plans regarding our on-campus schedule from December 8 through December 18 by Tuesday, December 1.**

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have questions or concerns.

In spite of the year's challenges, I am always deeply thankful to be a part of this vibrant, supportive community. Thank you for your patience, your care, and your commitment to Pacific Ridge. I wish you and your loved ones a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday.

Sincerely,



Bob Ogle,  
Head of School