

**From:** Live Oak Charter Notification@target1013.brightarrow.com  
**Subject:** August 9, 2021 Communication  
**Date:** August 9, 2021 at 6:00 PM  
**To:** patrick.boyd@liveoakcharter.org



Aug 9, 2021

Dear Live Oak Charter School Families,

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! We, the Live Oak teachers and staff, are super excited about coming back to school in the 2021-2022 school year and I know parents are looking forward to school starting too! Live Oak thrives and prides itself on building relationships with students and families. It is due to your continued commitment to our school that we create not only a solid academic foundation for our students but also a wonderfully positive school culture and environment allowing for a truly memorable school experience.

Despite the incredible challenges and opportunities for growth that we have experienced since the Spring of 2020, we are stronger than ever and ready to take on a new year with stronger programming, continued safety measures, and an overall sense of rebuilding community.

I am working on a series of emails with the most up to date information. In this update we cover Communication reminders and COVID safety protocols including Contact Tracing and Symptom Checking. Later this week, I'll have another email with an emphasis on the academic programming that we will be implementing throughout the school year.

**Communication:**

Thank you for continuing to read your email thoroughly - keeping families informed is important to us, and email is one way we know we can reach every family with important information, especially in these changing times. In addition to emails, we will post our communications on the website under "News and Updates". Also, we are proud to be transitioning to a new communication platform called ParentSquare this year. This will give you more autonomy on how often you want to access information and an option to access school communications on your Smartphone via the ParentSquare App. We will share more on the specifics of this new communication tool as soon as we have it ready to launch.

**Continuation of COVID safety protocols:**

As we bring students back to full-time, in-person instruction, we need to balance the safety concerns of COVID-19. Despite a high vaccination percentage in Sonoma county ([85% and rising](#) for individuals 12 and above), we know that all our students under 12 are not vaccinated. Therefore, we are committed to doing everything possible, in compliance with the California Department of Public Health, to create the conditions for a safe return to full-time, in-person school for all students.

We continue to collaborate with the Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE) and their work with Sonoma County Public Health just like we did in the Spring. As a team they synthesize and disseminate public health information and requirements for Sonoma County public schools, and we will keep the Live Oak community informed when/if guidance changes. Also, we are in the process of updating our COVID Hub at [www.liveoakcharter.org](http://www.liveoakcharter.org). Please remember to visit the website as it is the best place to review and get the latest Live Oak COVID updates including LOCS safety plan and other guidance and resources.

Here are some key COVID safety points to note in our return to campus plan:

- Mask requirements: Masks are still required in all indoor Live Oak spaces, for all students and staff. At this time, masks are only optional outdoors
- Social distancing: There are no more social distancing requirements in indoor or outdoor spaces. However, we will continue to teach and encourage social etiquette like asking permission to enter into another person's personal bubble space. Also, teachers will be mindful in grouping of students and maintain consistent seating assignments.

**Mitigation Strategies:** We will continue to use the "swiss cheese" model of having many mitigation strategies including:

- Extra hand washing stations
- Enhanced cleaning practices
- Increased air ventilation
- More time spent outside
- Covering up coughs and sneezes
- Contact tracing
- Symptom checker
- Staying home when sick
- HVAC cleaning and replacement
- Restricting visitors

**Contact tracing:**

In the event of a positive COVID-19 case on campus, we are required to notify all impacted employees, and families who may potentially have been exposed. As such, we will continue to implement Volunteer and visitor sign-in sheets at the entrance of Live Oak , teachers will continue to take daily attendance so the office may inform individuals appropriately in such an event. We continue to partner with our local and State Dept of Public Health to guide us through this process.

**Symptom checking:**

Just like last Spring, all families are asked to perform a self-check of symptoms at home, as outlined below. We will provide you with a symptom tracker to put on your fridge. Below are the updated health requirements for Sonoma County schools including our school. Anyone who answers yes to any of the following questions will need to stay home and notify the Office at 707-762-9020:

1. Do you believe you are potentially ill with COVID-19, or have you had any exposure or direct contact with COVID-19 suspected or diagnosed individuals in the last 14 days? Direct contact is defined as within 6 feet for a cumulative total of at least 15 minutes over a 24-hour period.
2. Are you experiencing any of the following signs or symptoms?
  - Fever above 100.4 degrees or chills
  - Cough
  - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
  - Muscle pain
  - Fatigue
  - Headache
  - Sore throat
  - Congestion or runny nose
  - Nausea or vomiting
  - Diarrhea
  - New loss of taste or smell

If you are aware that these symptoms are due to a regular health impairment i.e. food allergies, diagnosed medical condition, or some other related health concern, please continue to call the office to report the symptom and provide us with the health explanation. We will continue to evaluate and update our COVID safety protocols throughout the year, following CDC, State and County guidance.

Lastly, as I mentioned earlier in this email, later this week I'll have another email with an emphasis on the academic programming and assessment tools that we will be implementing throughout the school year.

Thank you for your ongoing support and continued patience as we move forward with our preparations and planning for the year. In the spirit of continued collaboration, please send any questions you may have to [ort@liveoakcharter.org](mailto:ort@liveoakcharter.org).

Best,

Justin Tomola

Director

