To: Dr. Donald B. Austin, Superintendent of Schools

From: Ms. Yolanda Conaway, Assistant Superintendent of Equity and Student Affairs

COVID-19 TESTING PROGRAM FOR PAUSD EMPLOYEES

The PAUSD Roadmap to School Reopening reflects the latest science, and the best public health guidance and recommendations available. Measures such as physical distancing, hand washing, screening for symptoms, and the appropriate use of face coverings will be implemented and monitored regularly. Employing these strategies along with high compliance rates can reduce, though not eliminate, the risk of exposure and may help avoid any further disruptive school closures.

The California Department of Education (CDE) recommends, in addition to the above safety measures, that districts ensure that employees have access to COVID-19 testing at regular and ongoing intervals by making information available in the community. However, universal SARS-CoV-2 testing of all students and staff in school settings has not been recommended by the CDE or the Center for Disease Control (CDC). The CDC cites that "implementation of a universal approach to testing in schools may pose challenges, such as the lack of infrastructure to support routine testing and follow up in the school setting, unknown acceptability of this testing approach among students, parents, and staff, lack of dedicated resources, practical considerations related to testing minors and potential disruption in the educational environment." In addition, it is not known if testing in school settings provides any additional reduction in person-to-person transmission of the virus beyond what would be expected with implementation of other infection preventive measures (e.g., social distancing, mask, hand washing, enhanced cleaning and disinfecting).

The California Public Health Department (CPHD), however, recommends that school districts and schools test all school staff (teachers, paraprofessionals, cafeteria workers, janitors, bus drivers, or any other school employee that may have contact with students or other staff), periodically, as testing capacity permits and as practicable. The CPHD recommends a testing frequency that includes testing all staff over 2 months, where 25% of staff are tested every 2 weeks, or 50% every month to rotate testing of all staff over time.

In the absence of clear and definitive guidance on universal testing for students and staff, the District did not include COVID-19 testing in the Roadmap to Reopening as a requirement for in-person teaching and learning. However, in response to concerns expressed by employees and the community, COVID-19 testing is being recommended for all staff with future consideration for expanding testing to students if the District determines that access to testing has become an issue or the risk of COVID-19 exposure exceeds the risk in the general community.

Currently, employees may select one of the numerous [testing sites throughout Santa Clara County](). This website will allow registration at one of the testing sites operated by the County in partnership with Fulgent. Employees may also elect to use the State of California [Testing Map]() to help find a testing site closest to home. Employees will be able to search COVID-19 testing sites by current location, address, city or zip code.

In addition to the numerous community methods for accessing COVID-19 testing, it is recommended that the Board approve a partnership with Stanford Health Care for an efficient and cost-effective approach to surveillance testing.

A Stanford Health Care Partnership
Stanford Health Care will support on-site testing events weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly using a self-collection testing program or a hybrid of the traditional collection method utilizing school-based health nurses, clinicians, or techs. Stanford uses the COVID-19 Nasal mid turbinate (NMT) via nasal swab. Instead of processing each test individually, the Stanford Heath Care Lab will run the tests with a pooled testing methodology, in pools of 4. If there is a positive identified in the pool, each test is then run individually.

Preparation: Employee will receive testing program overview and description of process (may be a one-time occurrence), complete opt-in/opt-out and consent forms, register for MyHealth or confirm MyHealth account to receive results electronically.

Process: Employee will self-collect specimen with nasal swab during testing event, supervised by a school employee, such as the nurse/nurse clinician. A courier will pick up specimen or it will be dropped off by District staff.

Cost of Testing: Testing is free to all employees as well as any other insured and uninsured individual participating in the PAUSD testing events.

Location/Frequency of Testing: PAUSD will host weekly/bi-weekly testing events for all staff at rotating sites within the District.

Getting Results: Employee will receive test results in MyHealth and follow-up with care provider, if needed. Employees will need to download the Stanford Health Care MyHealth app to a smartphone or browse online and select "Create New Account". Results are typically available in 72 hours.

Positive Cases: Positive tests will follow medical management, self-quarantine protocols, contact tracing, and result reporting to the State of California.