Dear Echo Horizon Families,

Just a few more hours until Winter Break begins! We hope that this is a restful and joyful time with your family. Before we depart, we wanted to send answers to some frequently asked questions we have received about our return to school and on-campus learning in January.

Please review these carefully and reach out to any of us with questions or concerns. If you are choosing to change your survey response based on this information, please let your Director know by Monday, December 21 at noon. Based on our final LA County guidelines and your responses, we will finalize our cohorts and at-home learning plans over the coming weeks, and send those to you prior to the start of full-time online school on January 5th. We appreciate your patience and partnership during this complex time.

Best wishes,
The Leadership Team

Frequently Asked Questions:

What will at-home learning look like if we choose not to return to campus?

Our online learning programs are designed based on the number of students we are serving at home in each grade level. As we finalize our numbers, we will reach back out to you with our final plan. All students will get time with teachers and access to course materials and lessons should they stay home.

If we opt out of in-person learning, when can we opt in again?

In order to ensure the best learning experience for students and teachers and to adhere to cohort safety protocols, we will allow families to opt-in to in-person learning at two points this spring: After President’s Day Weekend (Monday, Feb. 22) and after Spring Break (Monday, April 5). Families cannot opt-in to in person learning at any other time. If you would like to opt-in at one of these dates, please contact your Director, not your child’s classroom teacher(s). Please let your Director know by
Monday, December 21 at noon if you opted-out on your survey, but have decided you would like your child to start in-person.

**Will COVID testing be required if we change to in-person learning?**

Yes, you will be required to present a negative COVID test to the School by Friday, Feb. 19 or by Friday, April 2 if you wish to return to in-person learning. As previously shared, students returning to school on January 11 also need to provide proof of a negative test. Should you have any questions about our testing policy, please reach out to our nurse, Laura Leyman at lleyman@echohorizon.org.

**What if we’ve chosen to return in-person but change our mind and decide to remain online?**

Please let your Director know by Monday, December 21 at noon if you opted-in on your survey, but have decided that you would like your child to start at home. Should you return to campus in January and then decide to opt out, please give us a few days to accommodate your child in our online programming, as it does require planning shifts on our end. If you choose to opt-out, you will not be able to return until one of our opt-in points this spring: After President’s Day Weekend (Monday, Feb. 22) and after Spring Break (Monday, April 5). Please contact your Director, not your child’s classroom teacher(s).

**Our child has been attending school in person but is sick with a non-COVID illness. Can they go online for the day?**

If your child gets a cold or other short illness, we ask that you take a sick day, just like during a regular school year. We cannot accommodate students joining our online programming just for a day or two. If your child needs to remain out of school for a prolonged period due to their health, we ask that you contact your Director about adding your student to our at-home learning programming. Please do not contact your child’s classroom teacher(s).

**What academic programming will my child receive if they have to quarantine?**
If your child has to quarantine due to a non-school related exposure, we will accommodate your child in our online learning program during the quarantine period. However, please give us a few days to accommodate your child. If you know that you will be quarantining upon return from winter break and joining online learning the week of 1/19, please let your Director know now.

Should an entire cohort need to quarantine due to an exposure at school, that whole program will move online.

**What safety measures are in place?**

Please review the COVID-19 section of our website for our full list of comprehensive, county-approved safety measures: [https://www.echohorizon.org/domain/230](https://www.echohorizon.org/domain/230)

We also recommend the recorded Community Conversation hosted by Peggy, Saundra and our nurse Laura Leyman, who lead the Covid Compliance efforts on campus. It can be found on the [parent resource page of the website](https://www.echohorizon.org/domain/230).

Last, we ask that all returning families sign and adhere to our family [return-to-campus pledge](https://www.echohorizon.org/domain/230). If you have not already signed and returned it, please send a signed copy to Mr. Zakaria at szakaria@echohorizon.org.