



The McKinley Weekly Mini-Messenger

For Schoolwide Info and Updates Each Week

Date: 8/30/21

Important Announcements and Reminders

The **City of Santa Monica crossing guards** help keep our students and families safe when they walk and bike to school. The city crossing guards located at McKinley are Vic Fernandez at Santa Monica Bl/Chelsea and Maria Perez at Arizona/Chelsea. Thank you to the city for providing this support!

A note about **COVID communication:**

Since the start of this school year, there have not been any positive cases on the McKinley campus.

If there was a positive case of a student or staff member on campus, the following would occur simultaneously:

1. The principal will send out a general notification to the school community
2. The custodial team cleans and disinfects the exposed area(s)
3. The nursing team immediately conducts contact tracing and reaches out to the parents of students who had close contact with the positive case to provide quarantine and testing information. **If you are not contacted, that means that your child was not identified as having been exposed.** A student would be considered exposed if within 6 feet for a cumulative duration of 15 minutes with or without a mask, in direct contact with bodily fluids, or in the same class of an individual who tested positive for COVID.

Please **check your email daily**, including each **night and each morning** before coming to school. It is possible we could be informed of a positive case late at night, and we need to inform multiple families as quickly as possible that their child needs to quarantine.

If an individual student has to quarantine, the student would get a work packet. If a whole class has to quarantine, that class would be on Zoom with their teacher during the quarantine.

Families can keep up-to-date about the number of isolations/quarantines at McKinley and in the district at <https://www.smmusd.org/Page/6297>

Thank you for doing the **Pre-Screening Website** daily

<https://smmusdstudentcovidscreen.lintelio.com/>

A video tutorial is available here

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWQduKtPPwA>

In case you missed the 8/26 email with important information about **mandatory weekly COVID testing** of students and staff it is attached. Testing will begin this Friday. Please register at <https://hipaa.jotform.com/212318620488153>. The FAQ is attached.

We have regular **emergency drills** so students and staff know what to do in the case of an emergency. We have 1 fire drill a month, 3 earthquake drills a year, and 2 shelter-in-place/lockdown drills a year. Starting next week, we will have our first fire drill of the year. Please review the attached documents regarding emergency procedures.

This Week			
Day	Date	Time	Event
Monday	8/30		
Tuesday	8/31		
Wednesday	9/1		
Thursday	9/2		
Friday	9/3	8:45am	Room Parent Meeting, Zoom Weekly COVID Testing to Begin

Next Week			
Day	Date	Time	Event
Monday	9/6		No School
Tuesday	9/7		No School
Wednesday	9/8		
Thursday	9/9		
Friday	9/10	4:00- 6:00pm	Back to School Picnic!

Upcoming Dates and Events	
9/16 No School	
9/17 AASG Meeting	

Flyers Attached	
Emergency Docs	
Testing Info and FAQ	
Room Parent	
Boys and Girls Club	
Back to School Picnic	

McKinley Emergency Information

Emergency Drills

We have regular emergency drills so students and staff know what to do in the case of an emergency. We have 1 fire drill a month, 3 earthquake drills a year, and 2 shelter-in-place/lockdown drills a year.

Starting next week, we will have our first fire drill of the year. Prior to the drill students will view this [Powerpoint](#) to learn more about emergency drills.

There is a red emergency backpack in every room on campus, that contains emergency items like first aid kits, walkie talkies, and emergency documents. We also have a large emergency bin on the yard full of emergency supplies including food, water, search and rescue supplies and more.

All staff have been trained in emergency procedures and know what to do in the case of an emergency.

Emergency Drills- Great CA Shakeout

Thursday October 21st at 10:21am everyone in California will participate in an earthquake drill at the same time. Information can be found here:

<https://www.shakeout.org/california/dropcoverholdon/>

They will also watch this video about earthquake procedures.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSDmqLQmMN0&list=PLs1gMujRSBY2t7JB4VS-AymFwN-6Lvg20&index=2>

The Day of the Drill at 10:21am teachers will play this video announcing the earthquake

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=__X_LkpVS2A&list=PLs1gMujRSBY1b8HfvyUHw9PDXSgvd9Rzu. Students will then drop, cover, and hold for at least 60 seconds while at home.

We encourage all family members to join and participate in the drill.

Emergency Communication

In the case of an emergency we will blast information via voice, email, and/or push notification.

A push notification (alert) to the home screen of your cell phone will only occur if you have downloaded the free SMMUSD app to your iphone or android. You can download this app from the app store on your phone.

It is also important that when you receive communication blasts labeled from “McKinley Elementary, mckinley-bc@smmUSD.org” you do not click the “unsubscribe” link. If you click this, you will not receive important emergency notifications. We try to send general information blasts out sparingly.

Please also follow us on twitter @McKinleyLions and @SMMUSD for real time information. Twitter updates are also viewable at our McKinley website and SMMUSD website.

You can also sign up for texts, emails, and/or phone calls from the City of Santa Monica regarding natural disaster, police activity, and other emergency information at www.smalerts.net.

It is important that you provide an updated Emergency Card every year, since we use the information on this card to contact you in the case of an emergency. This card also lets us know who we can release your child to in an emergency pick-up situation.

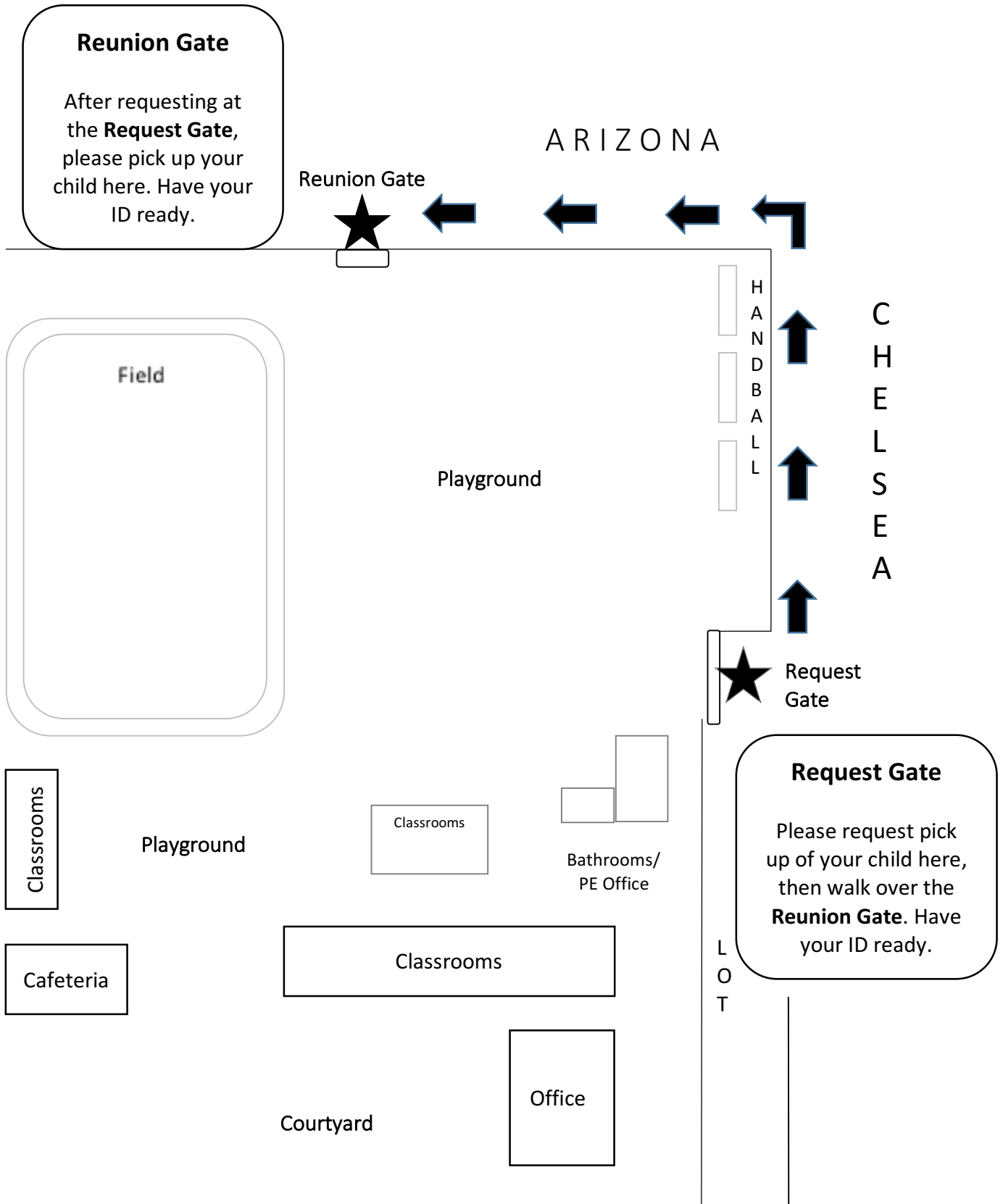
Emergency Procedures

In the case of an emergency we may implement emergency pickup procedures. Please see the attached “Parent Pickup Map” to see where our Request Gate and Reunion Gates are located. Also see the attached “Off-Campus Evacuation Map” for off-campus emergency meeting locations. Specific information and procedures will be provided at the time of the emergency based on the situation.

If you have any questions please contact the McKinley office. Thank you.

Dr. Benjamin

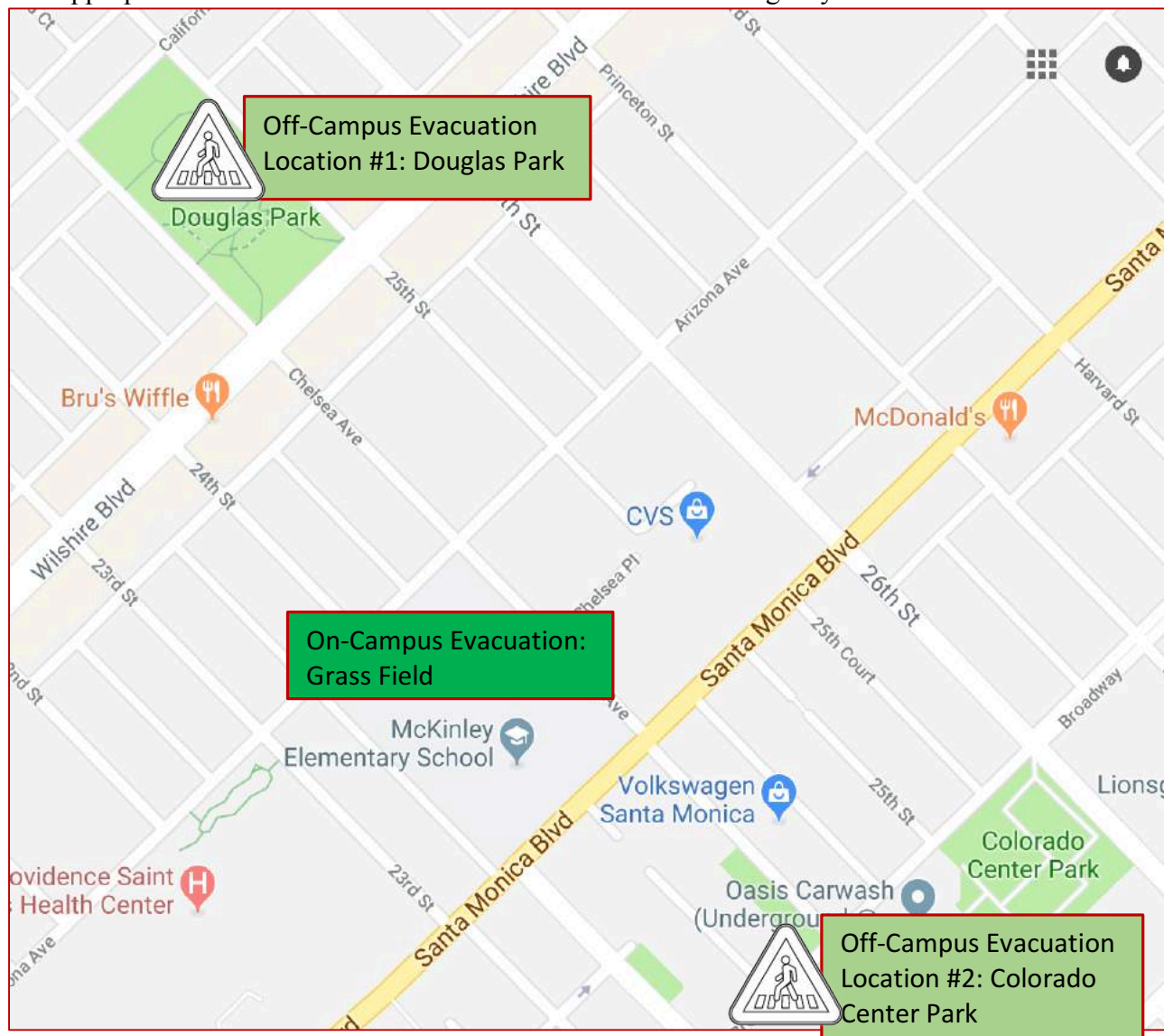
McKinley Elementary Parent Map for Emergency Situations



McKinley Elementary

Emergency Off-Campus Evacuation Locations

- If there is an emergency such as a fire or earthquake, students, staff, and adults evacuate out of the school buildings to the grass field on the playground.
- In the rare case that an evacuation off-campus to a walking location is needed, the staff would walk the students to the closest park, Douglas Park or the Colorado Center Park. The staff would determine which park is appropriate based on the location of the hazard at the time. If it safe to go to Douglas Park, that is the first choice walking location.
- In the rare case that students, staff, and adults need to be bused to an off-campus location, the locations are Santa Monica High School or John Muir/SMASH. These are campuses located on the south side of Santa Monica because schools in the Lincoln Pathway would likely be similarly impacted by an emergency that causes a bus evacuation.
- Students and staff have monthly emergency drills so they know what to do in the case of an emergency. Drills include earthquake, fire, shelter-in-place, and lockdown. Staff would determine the appropriate action and evacuation location based on the emergency at the time.



Off-Campus Bus Evacuation Locations:
1. SAMOHI 2. John Muir/SMASH





You are an important part of how we create community at McKinley and how we engage parents. Just being a smiling face, willing to answer questions for others, makes McKinley feel like a welcoming place and makes families feel at home. As an extra bonus, your dedication here says a lot to your kids. If school matters to you, it will matter to them. When you give of yourself to their school, it reminds them that their education matters, and that they matter. Come Volunteer!

What is a Room Parent?



Help Distribute Information, Rally Volunteers, Gather Info and Encourage Community

- Help with classroom parties, volunteer needs, Scholastic book orders, and other activities, depending on the needs of the teacher and the availability of the room parent

So what am I really going to DO?



At a minimum... Attend Meetings Once a Month, Forward Emails to Class' Parents, and Organize Teacher Gifts (or ensure that someone in the class is handling that)

- Some room parents help organize the end-of-year BBQ
- Help the teacher with class parties, and even organize outside, inclusive gatherings like play dates in the park for the whole class
- Some teachers like to make use of parent volunteers in the classroom and others don't
- Coordinate with Teacher to help communicate with families in the class

Is this a one person job and do I volunteer in classroom?



Each Classroom Needs At Least One Room Parent

- More fun with two or more people who can share the job
- Completely doable by one person
- Room Parents don't necessarily volunteer in classroom
- If you can't make meeting, confer with coordinators. We're all here to HELP!

We hope you'll come join us! If interested or if you have any further questions, please contact your child's teacher or email Carra Jost jaredandcarra@gmail.com or Nicole Cogan Ncogan19@gmail.com.

MCKINLEY ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

ROOM PARENT MEETING

Friday, September 3, 2021
@ 8:45 a.m.

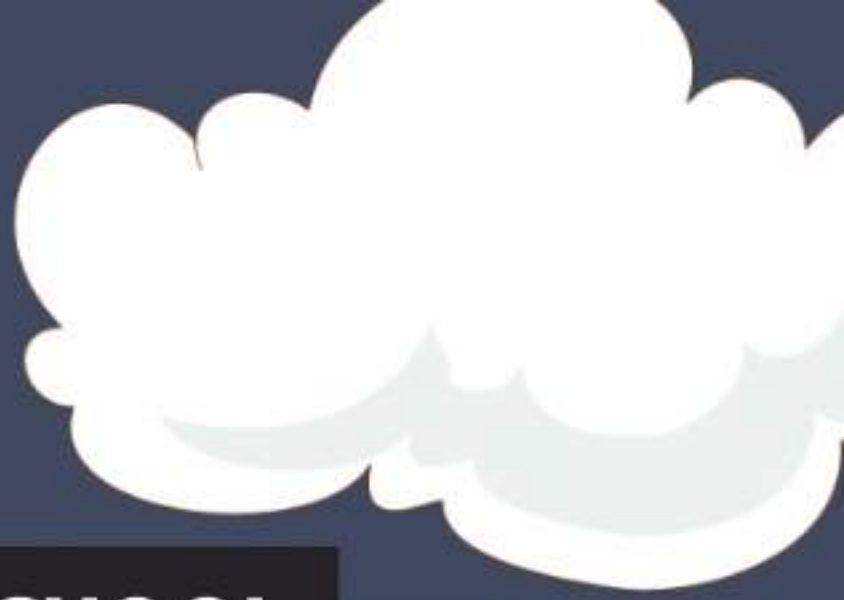
JOIN VIA ZOOM:
MEETING ID: 884 7182 3370
PASSCODE: 705621

If you are interested in becoming a Room Parent or
would like more information, please contact:

Carra Jost
jaredandcarra@gmail.com

Nicole Cogan
ncogan19@gmail.com





BACK TO SCHOOL

PICNIC

GREAT FOOD ● GREAT PEOPLE ● GREAT FUN

4-6

PM

SEPTEMBER 10TH

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**at mckinley elementary's
play yard**





**BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF SANTA MONICA**



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

**WANT TO PLAY SPORTS THIS
FALL AT YOUR SANTA MONICA
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?**

Join Us

**VOLLEYBALL & FOOTBALL
INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE!**

Dates: 9/27/21 - 11/15/21

Age: GRADES 2-3 & 4-5

Price: \$175/STUDENT

INCLUDES: 2 PRACTICES & 1 GAME/WEEK

Benefits:

- SAFE ENVIRONMENT
- LASTING FRIENDSHIPS
- HEALTHY COMPETITION
- INCLUSIVE SPORTSMANSHIP

**LEARN FROM A QUALIFIED COACH WITH HIGH
PRIORITY ON ALL SAFETY GUIDELINES!**

CALL US AT (310) 394-2582 TO SIGN UP!

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
Santa Monica Education Foundation



August 26th, 2021
Testing Update:

Dear McKinley families,

I know you've been eagerly awaiting more information about the mandatory weekly COVID testing of students and staff. The testing process is being coordinated by the district, so principals have been waiting for details about logistics, scheduling, and registration. I am pleased to share that I now have updated information.

Attached is the district's **Testing FAQ document** that contains detailed answers to common questions about the testing and registration. This should address most questions and concerns you may have. If you have additional questions please don't hesitate to email Tara Brown at tbrown@smmusd.org.

McKinley's **scheduled testing day and time block are Fridays 8:30am-12:30pm** and will be provided by the company Malibu Medical. Our first date will be **next week 9/3/21**.

The format of the testing is as follows: Each class will have a scheduled ten-minute time block within the testing window. Testing will occur one class at a time, outdoors on the K yard grass.

1. The teacher will walk the students to the outdoor testing location
2. The testing staff will demonstrate how to swab
3. The students will be provided with a labeled tube and handed a swab
4. Students will self-swab with guidance from the testing staff
5. Then students will put the swab in the tube and hand it to the testing staff

The test is extremely non-invasive. Just the 1-inch tip of the Q-tip-like swab will swirl in the very tip of the nose (a shallow nasal swab). Students can even practice at home with a regular Q-tip to see that the swab does not go in deep and it is a similar experience to itching the inside of their nose. The swabbing takes just a few seconds. It will be a quick, painless, and easy process. And staff will always be available to provide support as needed.

As we have throughout the pandemic, we have our students' social-emotional wellness in mind. Like we did with the COVID safety protocols, I plan to make a fun video to show the testing process so students know what to expect (to be blasted soon). Some classes may also use the opportunity to explore the exciting science behind such tests. And teachers and staff will set aside community meeting time to share feelings and support students with any worries. I also have samples of the testing swab and tubes, and would be happy to show them to students who are nervous. We will make the whole process as light and anxiety-free as possible and will emphasize how we are doing this together, as community helpers, to keep ourselves and each other safe.

It is expected that testing will continue through December 31, 2021, at which time the district will reevaluate if weekly screening testing is still necessary.

Please note that parents will only receive an email message if their child receives a positive test result and the school nurse will follow up with quarantine instructions.

Please register online at <https://hipaa.jotform.com/212318620488153>. The new deadline to register is Friday August 27th at 8pm. Testing is required for all students and staff so please register by the deadline so we can have labels ready. See the FAQ document for details about registration.

Weekly testing will be a great tool as a quick regular check-in of the health of our students and staff. It will allow us to identify asymptomatic positives, so that individuals can quarantine and we can reduce the spread of COVID.

Thank you for participating and helping to keep our school family healthy and safe.

Dr. Benjamin



COVID-19 Testing Frequently Asked Questions

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Board of Education voted unanimously to authorize the superintendent to enter into a contract allowing testing companies Doctor Now and Malibu Medical Group to provide the weekly polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing for students and staff. **The deadline for registering and providing consent for testing has been extended to Friday, August 27 at 8 p.m.**

As of August 25, 2021 we have more than 70% of the school population registered and we encourage all to do so. Thank you for your compliance as we navigate through this ongoing pandemic. Please remember that our goals with these safety measures are to keep students and staff safe and to maintain the continuity of learning for the entire year. These measures will help the district attain these goals.

Here are some common questions and answers regarding testing:

Which company is conducting testing at my school?

Doctor Now (<https://www.doctornow.net/home>): Lincoln MS, John Adams MS, Samohi
Malibu Medical Group (<https://www.malibumedicalgroup.com/>): Malibu ES, Webster ES, Malibu MS, Malibu HS, Franklin ES, Roosevelt ES, Grant ES, McKinley ES, Rogers ES, Muir ES, SMASH, Edison Language, Obama Center (Olympic HS, PPBL), District Office

How do I register?

Registration is organized by school site for students and staff. District office and other district services staff links vary by site. See the [attached chart](#) to find your registration link.

When will testing start?

Testing is being rolled out and schedules are being created. Details of how, when, and where on your campus will be communicated by the site principals prior to testing.

Have the registration and consent forms been updated with earlier concerns addressed?

Yes. The forms now include additional information regarding insurance requirements and data privacy. Both are addressed in questions below.

Can I opt out of testing or wearing a mask on campus or a district facility?

Yes, there is an exemption option. This form must be submitted and approved.

[Student Testing and Mask Exemption Form - English](#)

[Student Testing and Mask Exemption Form - Spanish](#)

What happens if a parent / staff member refuses to provide insurance, or if uninsured, refuses to provide social security or identification information or has none of the above?

Insurance information is necessary for the companies to seek reimbursement from the insurance companies who have been backed by the federal government with CARES Act funds. There is no cost to the insured nor will there be a co-pay charged to the insured.

For anyone who doesn't have insurance, the companies will need a social security number or government-issued identification like driver's license or ID card. This information allows for the companies to seek reimbursement from the federal government. If you do not have any of the above, please contact your school site.

If you decline to include insurance information, you will not be able to complete and submit your registration for SMMUSD testing. Alternatively, you will be required to provide proof of a valid negative PCR test (not an antigen test) to your school site aligned with the site's testing schedule. SMMUSD is providing free testing on site as both a convenience to families and staff and a way to keep our students and staff safer with no cost to anyone.

Note that many companies supporting school districts follow the same reimbursement procedures.

What happens if a student and/or parent refuses to undergo mandatory testing or wearing of a mask without an approved exemption form on file?

SMMUSD is providing testing on site as a no cost service for families and staff.

You will have two options:

- If you decline to include insurance information, or if uninsured, your social security info or identification info, you will not be able to complete and submit your registration for SMMUSD testing. Alternatively, you will be required to provide proof of a valid negative PCR test (not an antigen test) to your school site aligned with the site's adopted testing schedule. SMMUSD is providing testing on site as a no cost service for families and staff.
- School administration will seek to meet with the parents to understand why and/or review the exemption form submitted. In some cases where warranted, a face shield and drape will be offered as a remedy. If the exemption is denied, our independent study program may be offered as a remedy.

Can I get testing done privately and provide my school / site with results in lieu of SMMUSD testing?

Yes, you will need to provide PCR test (not antigen) results weekly aligned with your site's testing schedule. More information on submitting test results will follow in the next few days.

I have a FERPA opt-out on file with the district. What are my options?

1. Submit the registration form and we will know you have opted in to this program only.
2. Test with the provider of your choice and provide the test results to your school site.

Testing procedure

Who is conducting the testing on students and staff?

Students and staff will self-administer nasal swab tests in the presence of trained staff. Instructions will be provided to students on how to self-administer the nasal swab. The district has successfully executed instructions on self-administered nasal swab tests to primary and secondary aged students throughout the 2020-21 school year. The test is designed to be self-administered by even our youngest students. It is quick and easy with no more than length of the cotton portion on a standard size Q-tip-style swab that is inserted in the nose. Although it is a simple test, trained staff is available to assist the students with a hand-over-hand technique or, in select cases for students with special or medical needs, an alternative such as the oral collection route may be offered. Below are links to an English and Spanish YouTube video describing the process:

[Self Administered nasal Swab \(English\)](#)

[Self Administered Nasal Swab \(Spanish\)](#)

May parents attend the testing of their student?

No, this will be done on campus during the school day. School site staff will be on hand for elementary student testing. Middle school and high school students may test with some classes or may be asked to report to the testing location independently. Your child's principal will communicate with you the process for your campus.

Why did the district choose nasal swabs instead of saliva testing?

Nasal swabs are more accurate at detecting the COVID -19 viral load than saliva testing. It is also more efficient because attaining the appropriate saliva sample often requires more time. Saliva tests are included in the consent form as a possible method. We are considering this for certain cohorts of students (Dr. Drati will work with contractors and our medical staff to determine these details).

How is the swab sterilized prior to use?

As with nearly all medical and lab equipment the material used to encase the swabs individually are sterilized with ethylene oxide gas, which is non-toxic in this format.

Why were there questions in the initial registration and consent forms asking for consent to blood draw?

This language does not apply to SMMUSD and has been removed. The form being used by both companies is a standard consent form medical companies use. We have further customized the form with our providers to better meet our needs and the interests of our families.

Test Results

When will the test results be available?

There is a 24-hour turnaround time for the results.

Who will see the results of my student?

The companies will notify school administration, school nurse, and the parent of a positive test only.

How will a parent / guardian be notified?

The parent or guardian will be contacted via the phone number and/or email address that the parent provided when registering with the testing company. Later followup will be conducted by district nursing staff using the contact listed in the district's database.

What happens to students and staff who show a positive test?

The Los Angeles County Office of Education [LACDPH guidelines](#), to which the district adheres, state that if a COVID-19 test is positive, the individual must stay home until 10 days have passed since symptom onset AND be fever-free for 24 hours without fever reducing medication AND symptoms have improved. Individuals testing positive without symptoms may return after 10 days from the date of positive test.

If the individual is a student, the teacher will provide a short term independent study assignment while the student is in isolation.

If the individual is a teacher, a substitute teacher will be provided for the class during the duration of isolation.

Note that once an individual has tested positive, the individual may test positive for up to 90 days based on LACDPH guidance and this would be accounted for in the decision to isolate them in the future.

How do the health office specialists, nurses, and school officials determine who was in close contact when conducting contact tracing in the event that there is an exposure to an individual with a positive test?

[The District's Exposure Management Plan](#), which is in alignment with the LACDPH protocols, provides information detailing the decision making process for managing cases. In it, you will also find [a detailed flow chart of the decision pathway](#) advised by the Department of Public Health that our nurses and administrators use to determine who is considered to be in "close contact" to a known positive or suspected positive case. There is a document that provides further and detailed information on [Home Quarantine Instructions](#) for Close Contacts to COVID-19. In summary, the following is how we determine close contact based on LACDPH:

- A **close contact of a potentially infected individual** is a child or employee at the facility who was within 6 feet for ≥ 15 minutes over a 24-hour period with a potentially infected child OR had direct contact with bodily fluids/secretions from a potentially infected child.
- **Exposure is confirmed** for a close contact to a potentially infected employee if the Institution receives notification that the potentially infected employee had a positive COVID-19 diagnostic viral test OR received a diagnosis of COVID-19 from a medical provider.
- **Vaccinated persons** who are a close contact to a confirmed case are not required to quarantine and test if they are: (1) fully vaccinated (i.e., ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine) and (2) have remained asymptomatic since last contact with the infected person.

Data Protection / Data Privacy

How will my data that I am sharing through the registration process be protected?

Information gathered during the registration process will be kept confidential and secure and will only be shared as required for CARES Act reimbursement and state and district reporting purposes. Data will not be shared or sold to other third parties. SMMUSD has a data privacy agreement on file with both companies. Additionally, this limited information is required in order to properly identify positive cases and contact parents / guardians. Information such as race, ethnicity and gender are required as part of record keeping by the state for tracking of this virus.

May I view the contracts for the two providers?

Copies of the contracts will be posted to the www.smmusd.org/Coronavirus page by Aug. 26.

The updated contracts now include the following:

- A testing end date was incorporated into the contract. Malibu Medical and Doctor Now contracts will continue through Dec. 31, 2021, at which time the district will reevaluate if weekly screening testing is still necessary, based on data such as infection and vaccination rates.
- An option for the COVID-19 saliva test in lieu of nasal test for certain cohorts of students, including younger students. (Dr. Drati will work with contractors and our medical staff to determine these details).
- Ensure that the data collected by the vendors is limited to what is minimally necessary for CARES Act reimbursement and required reporting to the state and SMMUSD.
- The registration and consent digital forms will be updated by the morning of August 26 to reflect the direction provided by the school board. You will find the full content of the forms on www.smmusd.org/Coronavirus following the update.

May I view the video of the August 23 special board meeting on this topic to hear the discussion and comments?

Yes, here is the video recording of the meeting: <https://youtu.be/reWldf24U4I>

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