



Feb. 11, 2022

## **Superintendent's Message: Heat Wave and Outdoor Masking**

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff, Students and Community Members,

We recognize that we are in the middle of an unexpected heat wave for this time of year over the next few days and understand that outdoor masking may be a challenge for some students. We are recommending some relief actions for our students while outside at play at school.

Our Principals will treat these warmer days as we have done in the past with limiting time for outside activities, recommending quieter outdoor activities, suggesting water breaks and allowing students to lower their masks for short breaks during higher exertion activities, if able to distance from other students.

For today, Friday, Feb. 11 and Monday, Feb. 14, we will be lenient on absences if a parent prefers a student to stay at home these two days.

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) has reported that COVID case counts have dropped in LA County this week, which is great news. We believe the LACDPH will remove the outdoor masking requirement, possibly as early as next week, to align with the recent state shift. We do not plan to defy the current outdoor LACDPH masking requirements and will await their guidance before we implement this change.

We are working to align ourselves with these expected updated outdoor masking guidelines and will inform you of planned changes in the coming days. Your Principals will follow up on implementation at each campus once the District adopts this change.

We look forward to continuing to see a trend of lower cases, and continue to encourage vaccinations for all eligible students. We are working to schedule more clinics in Santa Monica and Malibu. In the meantime, visit <https://myturn.ca.gov/> to find nearby appointments.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ben Drati, Superintendent