



January 17, 2022

Superintendent's Message: COVID Protocol Update for TK-12 and Testing Hubs for Symptomatic Students and Staff

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

We are pleased to share with you that all of our TK-12 schools will be utilizing the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) shortened quarantine and isolation protocols starting on Tuesday, January 18. Guidelines for Early Learning, including infants, toddlers and preschools will differ. Please check with CDS regarding quarantine timelines.

These updated protocols allow for:

The option to shorten the quarantine time for asymptomatic, unvaccinated, exposed students from 10 days to five days (with a negative antigen test and no symptoms on day five or later) for a return to school on the sixth day following the exposure.

The option to shorten the isolation time for positive students, regardless of vaccination status, from 10 days to five days (with a negative antigen test and no symptoms on day five or later) for a return to school on the sixth day following the positive test. Your child's school will notify you of the date your child may return to campus.

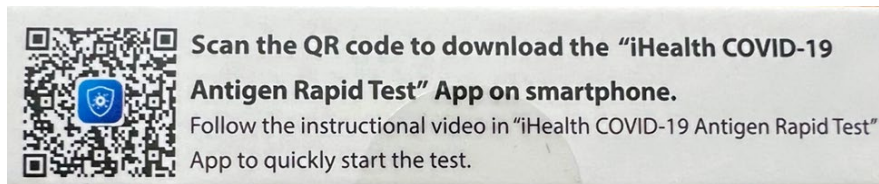
Quarantine Update for Exposed Students and Staff

- [LACDPH quarantine chart](#) clearly describes our quarantine process, detailed here.
- If your child is exposed, you will be notified via email by the school site and given specific instructions to follow.
- Fully vaccinated students who are asymptomatic and exposed to a positive case on campus may stay in school. Testing is required on or around day five. Weekly school testing or outside PCR tests accepted.
- Unvaccinated students who are asymptomatic and exposed to a positive case on campus may return to school on the sixth day of quarantine with no symptoms after a negative antigen test on day five, or back on day 11 without a test and no symptoms.
- The State of California has provided each of our students with two antigen tests that the school will distribute when your child requires a test to return to campus. The tests are no-cost to you.
- We will be distributing the antigen test kits to parents of the students who have been placed on quarantine just before their return to campus eligibility date.

- The test should be administered on or after the fifth day after exposure. It would be best to administer the test on the morning of the sixth day, just before bringing your child to school.
- **NEW:** Students or staff who are exposed, asymptomatic and have recovered from laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 in the past 90 days may now bring in their report from a medical provider (laboratory report such as a PCR test, or a physician’s note as proof of previous infection) and stay in school, unless it is determined that the subject has a new COVID infection through a positive antigen test. For now, we will continue to PCR test everyone on a weekly basis, but principals and health staff will know who tested positive within the last 90 days and will not isolate these students or staff members. We recognize a PCR test may reflect a positive result.

[FIVE \(5\)-DAY QUARANTINE TAKE-HOME ANTIGEN TESTING PROCESS \(for those who have been quarantined due an exposure and are asymptomatic:](#)

1. Please download the iHealth Test app in your app store or by scanning the QR Code in the attached copy of this letter. This app contains a video that will walk you through the testing process as you are testing your child:



Alternatively to the QR code, here are instructions and the link to the video: [English](#) / [Spanish](#).

2. If the test is negative and your child does not have symptoms of illness, your child will be admitted to school. If the test is positive, STAY HOME and alert your school’s health office. Your child will not be admitted and must stay home and isolate. Your health office will communicate further instructions.
3. Bring your child’s negative test to the designated place at your school. A staff member will verify that the test is negative and admit your child to the campus. We will dispose of the test after verification.
4. Please note that staff members will not be permitted to test any student. Parents must test their own child off campus. All people must wear a mask while on campus at all times.

Isolation Update for Positive or Symptomatic Students and Staff

- If your child tests positive for COVID, you will receive specific instructions via email from the school nurse.
- **NEW:** Individuals who test positive, regardless of vaccination status, now have the option to shorten the isolation time to five days, returning to school on day six as long as symptoms have improved. This requires a health care provider-verified negative antigen test on day five or later to return and clearance by the school nurse. If a day five test is

not performed, or the day five test is positive, these individuals can return to school on day 11 if their symptoms have improved. The COVID test must be done at a testing facility, medical clinic, health care facility or one of our testing hubs. **Home tests will not be accepted for return to school following isolation.**

- All individuals who are in isolation (for testing positive for COVID or having symptoms of illness) must be cleared by the school health office to return to campus. Do not return to campus until cleared by the school nurse.
- If your child is currently on a 10-day isolation and you would like to participate in the shortened isolation, please email your site's school nurse for instructions and clearance.

[FIVE \(5\)-DAY ISOLATION SCHOOL ANTIGEN TESTING PROCESS \(for COVID-positive staff and students\):](#)

In order to facilitate the shortened isolation of asymptomatic COVID-positive staff and students to return to school after day five of isolation, we are providing two antigen testing hubs for students and staff to access in order to get an antigen test on day five or later. Students and staff on isolation for a COVID infection must submit the antigen result from the hub testing via email to their school site nurses and await official clearance from the nurse to qualify for the shortened isolation. Antigen tests from a testing facility, medical clinic, or health care facility will also be accepted. Home tests will not be accepted. Hubs in Santa Monica and Malibu:

- [John Adams Middle School \(for Santa Monica staff and students\):](#) Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. starting Tuesday, January 18, 2022. Please do not enter the school office. Testing is outside. Registration is on-site.
- [Malibu Elementary School \(for Malibu staff and students\):](#) Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. starting Wednesday, January 19, 2022. Please do not enter the school office. Testing is in the parking lot. Registration is on-site.

General guideline reminders

- Fully vaccinated, asymptomatic students who have a COVID positive household member are not required to quarantine, however, we strongly recommend these students stay home until the COVID positive household member has completed their isolation period. Testing is recommended on day five after exposure, and if any symptoms develop, and again before returning to school.
- Any student returning to school, regardless of vaccination status, must be free of any symptoms of illness. Please keep your student home if they are not well and alert the health office.
- For ages 5-11, fully-vaccinated is two weeks after the second COVID vaccine. For 12+, students must also have a booster (when eligible, five months after the second vaccine) to be exempt from quarantine. Please submit proof of your child's vaccinations, including boosters, if you have not done so already, to your school office. Staff, please provide your vaccination record, including booster, to human resources.

Absence Grace Period is Now Over

Out of an abundance of caution, some families have kept their children home since the winter break. We have excused all absences from January 3 – 14. Please be aware that beginning Tuesday, January 18, all students who are absent voluntarily will have their absence marked as

unexcused. **If your child has not returned to school since winter break, you must provide a negative PCR COVID test prior to he/she/they returning to campus.**

Masking

- Staff: All staff will now be required to wear medical-grade masks (surgical or KN 95). The District is providing a supply of these masks.
- Students: The LACDPH highly recommends that all students do so as well, as these higher quality masks can greatly reduce risk of transmission. LACDPH masking information: [English](#) / [Spanish](#).

Dashboard

Our COVID Dashboard is now live. We are updating weekly by Sunday evening with data from the prior week. www.smmusd.org/Dashboard

We appreciate your partnership in ensuring the health and safety of all of the members of our community and for your patience and flexibility as we continue to navigate these unprecedented times. As always, please contact your school administrator or nurse if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ben Drati, Superintendent