



September 20, 2021

Superintendent's Message: Modified Quarantine Option Plan and Vaccination Requirements for Eligible Students

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

We hope you and your family are off to a good start of the school year.

There are challenges we continue to face, but the good news is that school is open for in-person instruction to all families who want it. The district has adopted health and safety protocols designed to ensure that our schools remain open.

Along with those agencies whose health and safety advice we follow, we learn more almost daily and must continue to navigate the changing landscape of COVID-19 as we pursue our goal of ensuring that our students continue with in-person instruction in a safe environment. We know we must monitor updates and changes to guidance that will undoubtedly be made by the CDC, the state of California and the LA Department of Public Health (LACDPH) and do what is best for the vast majority of children.

I want to provide an update on the pandemic-related protocols we are currently working on, which will be discussed at the September 22 School Board meeting. Yes, the Board meeting is on Wednesday this week and not Thursday. Agenda: [Sept. 22, 2021 board meeting](#).

Modified Quarantine:

At our last Board meeting (September 2), questions were posed about the possibility of reducing quarantine periods from 10 to seven days, upon appropriate showing of negative tests by those students who are affected. On Friday, I also wrote about a new option just authorized by LACDPH on September 17 regarding modified quarantines for exposed students, upon verification and implementation of certain conditions. In furtherance of BOTH implementation of a reduced quarantine period and implementation of the "modified" quarantine option presented by LADPH, our team of administrators, nurses and health experts are working hard to develop a plan that we believe could be implemented in early October.

I will be presenting this plan to the school board during my Superintendent's COVID Update on Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. during our regularly scheduled school board meeting and hope you will tune in. You can read about it [here](#).

COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement

The School Board's September 22 agenda also proposes a resolution requiring COVID-19 vaccinations for eligible students that will be presented for discussion and will likely return for a vote at the next Board meeting. [Read the resolution](#) here.

This follows our Aug. 10, 2021 resolution requiring proof of COVID vaccinations for all staff members by Oct. 1, 2021.

As is the case for other required vaccines, this measure supports the District's goal of maintaining a healthy and safe learning environment for all students and staff. As stated in the resolution: "The vaccination of all eligible and non-exempt students provides the strongest protection to the health and safety of all students and staff in the SMMUSD school communities while further protecting against the disruption to full-time, in-person instruction."

We will have more information for you in the coming days. You can let us know your comments through our [Let's Talk](#) portal.

Continue to follow updates, find information and view our dashboard on our dedicated webpage: www.smmusd.org/Coronavirus.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ben Drati, Superintendent