



SANTA MONICA-MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

March 31, 2022

## **Superintendent's Message: Enjoy Spring Break and Stay Healthy!**

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

Spring is in the air with longer days and the warmth of the sun. We hear the wonderful sound of kids playing on our playgrounds, beaches, sports fields and in neighborhoods, sporting smiles and exhibiting boundless energy. Spring break is a time for all of us to take a moment, relax, recharge and reflect on our challenging, yet successful, school year with the home stretch of 2021-22 well in view.

We are satisfied with results of the Covid-19 precautions we have taken and continue to take that have led to extremely low transmission rates in our schools, ensuring the best-case scenario for the health of our students and staff. We were able to stay open during the fall and winter surges when some districts were forced to close, due to our advanced planning and commitment to following the guidelines mandated and highly recommended by our health agencies. Our staff worked hard to maintain protocols, and we appreciate their major contributions to this accomplishment.

With this in mind, and with a rise in the transmissible omicron subvariant BA.2 in our communities, we are determined to continue after spring break with high attendance rates and low COVID positivity rates.

To accomplish this goal, we all must work together and be cautious upon our return from spring break on April 18.

The District strongly recommends that students and staff wear masks for two weeks after spring break. Similarly, we strongly recommend that parents who are on-site do the same. Even if staff or your student voluntarily stopped wearing a mask before break, we recommend they wear masks for two weeks after break. We know that students and families were traveling or gathering over break and returning to mask-wearing upon return is one way for us to reduce the risk of transmission.

Here are additional guidelines for students and staff:

- Please take the antigen test you were provided this week and hold for use the morning of April 18. Here is the [letter](#) with instructions on showing the negative test upon arrival to our campuses / offices that morning. Stay home if you test positive.
- Stay home with any sign of illness, even if mild, and test to rule out Covid-19.
- Please get vaccinated / boosted, if you have not yet done so. Find locations on <https://myturn.ca.gov/>.

- Provide your school / office with proof of vaccination for our records, if you have not yet done so.
- Continue to participate in our weekly testing or bring in your proof of outside negative PCR test results.
- Our testing hubs at JAMS and **Malibu High School** are open during break for anyone who is symptomatic or has concerns about exposure. Hours and addresses are noted in the spring break [testing](#) letter.

We look forward to seeing all students and staff upon our return from spring break on April 18. I cannot emphasize enough that we ask for your cooperation in keeping our schools healthy and safe. We ask all students, staff members, and volunteers to continue to monitor themselves and their household members for symptoms of COVID-19 and to stay home and test if any symptoms develop.

We encourage everyone to have an enjoyable spring break, whether that's at home or traveling internationally. Please be safe and healthy and continue to look out for each other.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ben Drati, Superintendent