



December 16, 2021

Superintendent's Message: COVID Protocol Survey Results and Holiday Message

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

I want to express my sincere appreciation to our staff, parents and students for continuing to work together this year to overcome challenges and make the best of a couple of the toughest years I can remember in education and, in some respects, our lifetime.

We have seen incredible examples of strength, resilience and determination from students, staff and parents as we navigate this pandemic with our ongoing focus on student academic success and social-emotional wellbeing.

We are still in an unprecedented time, but with all of us working together for the benefit of our students, we will continue to see student success, achievement and personal growth. We know it has not been easy, and we are acutely aware that some of our students need extra support as we head into 2022. Our team of professionals is ready to support and guide our students with services and resources, based on need.

As we close out 2021, I want to share a few thoughts and information items with you:

COVID Protocol Survey Results

Linked below are a couple of powerpoint slides outlining the result of a recent perception survey administered to SMMUSD parents, secondary students, and staff. Thank you for taking the time to fill out the survey, as it provides some valuable information we will use to address the interest and needs of the school district population (students, parents, and staff) served in SMMUSD:

- [Results of district-wide survey](#) (note that a response from a parent /guardian who has children at multiple school sites is counted once in the district response.
- [Results of survey by school sites](#) (note that a response from a parent /guardian who has children at multiple school sites is accounted for at each site.)

The school board has requested that staff prepare a discussion item at a board meeting in January to go over the results of the survey and other additional data regarding vaccination status of our students, district case positivity rate, and other important information. We would then use the information to inform future decisions around the safety protocols we are currently executing. We hope to either conduct the discussion at a regularly scheduled board meeting in January or a special board meeting. Either way, we will notify the community before the discussion occurs. In the meantime, please take the opportunity to review the linked data for your own knowledge.

Holiday Health & Safety Reminders

We are all looking forward to gathering with family and friends this holiday season. With high vaccination rates in our community, we are in a much better place than we were last year at this time. With this in mind, we want to remind you that our goal is to continue in-person instruction for our students. We can all play a role in ensuring this continues by remembering the following:

- Wear your mask indoors, including with anyone outside of your immediate household. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health is concerned about increasing cases during colder weather that may lead to a rise in illness.
- We highly recommend and encourage all staff and students to get a PCR COVID test prior to return to school. This is for personal health, along with care for the health of others. Tests are available through <https://covid19.lacounty.gov/testing/>
- If you or your student are sick, do not attend gatherings or celebrations.
- If you are not yet vaccinated, including children age 5 and older, please get vaccinated.
- If you are vaccinated, but it has been six months since, please get a booster shot.

Vaccination Clinics

Our health partner, The Safe Set, has scheduled additional vaccination clinics at three school sites: John Adams Middle School and McKinley Elementary School in Santa Monica and Malibu High School. A letter with dates / times and registration information will be shared with you this week and will be posted on your school website in the What's Happening / News section. The clinics held at our sites two weeks ago provided more than 700 vaccinations for our parents, staff, students and community members through the MyTurn statewide appointment system. These appointments are only accessible through our codes / links and not open or visible to the general public through MyTurn.

Happy Holidays

Please take time during our two-week winter break to relax, reflect and enjoy your families during this holiday season. I wish you and your family good health and happiness during this special time of year.

Sincerely,
Dr. Ben Drati, Superintendent