



May 26, 2022

Superintendent's Message: Year-end Thoughts and COVID Testing Plan

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff and Students,

We are nearing the end of the 2021-22 school year and the energy felt across the District is a mix of enthusiasm, excitement, and relief, along with some stress and heartache.

We have endured a year of ups and downs including student, staff, and District achievements, alongside concerns over COVID surges, student mental health challenges, issues facing our democracy and the world, and the horrific school shooting earlier this week, to name a few.

For the final week of school, we are looking forward to celebrating the promotions of our fifth and eighth graders, along with the grand accomplishments of our graduating seniors from Samohi, Malibu High and Olympic High.

We are providing you our final COVID protective measures for the end of the school year:

COVID testing on campus

Site administrators and our leadership team have considered campus activities, scheduling and finals, along with an uptick in local cases, and created the following COVID testing schedule for the final two weeks of school for students and staff.

Elementary Schools: Continued regular testing days through June 9

Lincoln Middle and John Adams Middle: Continued regular testing days through June 9

Malibu Middle and High Schools: Last testing day is May 31

Samohi: Last testing day is May 27

District Office Staff: Last testing day is June 8

With SMMUSD student and staff COVID positivity rates rising the last few weeks, mirroring that of LA County's increase in cases, we want to minimize exposure of potential cases as much as possible. Our weekly testing has been a success in detecting cases and minimizing spread on our campuses. In an informal poll of PTA leaders from throughout the district last week, the group overwhelmingly supported ongoing testing through the end of the school year.

(Reference: SMMUSD COVID Dashboard: www.smmusd.org/Dashboard)

Response Testing Hubs:

Our [response testing hubs](#) remain open on school days from 8:30 a.m - 1:30 p.m. at JAMS and Malibu Elementary School for staff or students who are testing out of isolation, symptomatic, or miss the weekly school testing and would like to test.

Masks: *Strongly Recommended* indoors and *Required* after COVID exposure

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health continues to strongly recommend mask wearing in indoor gatherings of large groups, except while eating and drinking. We encourage this so we may all enjoy the end of the school year activities and celebrations. A reminder that masks are *required* indoors, except while eating and drinking, for 10 days after a COVID exposure.

As we have requested all year, if your student is sick, or as a staff member, you are sick, please do not come to school or work.

Enjoy the last two weeks of school!

Sincerely,

Dr. Ben Drati, Superintendent