



March 24, 2023

## **Interim Superintendent's Message: Covid-19 Guidelines Update for TK-12**

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

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District has aligned with the following new guidance issued by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH), effective immediately for TK-12 grade.

Preschool families will receive communication from Child Development Services regarding guidelines in their early learning environments.

### **Isolation: Stay home and away from others for at least 5 days**

Individuals who have tested positive for Covid-19 are to continue to isolate (stay home and away from others) for five days and may leave isolation after day five, as long as they have been fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medicines) and they either have no symptoms or their symptoms are mild and improving.

A negative Covid test is no longer required to leave isolation between days six to 10. If you have COVID-19, it remains very important to minimize the risk of passing along an infection. The LACDPH strongly recommends that people test negative prior to leaving isolation between days six to 10. Infected people should wear a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days. People may now discontinue wearing a mask around others between days six to 10 if they have two sequential negative tests taken at least one day apart. School sites and offices continue to offer free home test kits for students and staff.

### **Masking**

Changes have been made to masking requirements. Except as stated above, masking is now based on individual preference and no longer required, but strongly recommended. Employees must wear face coverings around others for a total of 10 days if coming back from isolation after day five, per the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), better known as Cal/OSHA.

### **Quarantine (Exposure)**

LACDPH strongly recommends, but is not requiring, that a person who is a close contact to a person with a confirmed case of Covid-19 wears a well-fitting mask around others for a total of 10 days. This is especially recommended in indoor settings or when near those who are at high risk for severe illness. It is recommended that close contacts test as soon as possible to

determine infection status and then, if negative, test again within three to five days after last known exposure.

This includes asymptomatic students and staff in classrooms or other school settings exposed to a positive case. Previously, students and staff in a class with a positive case were required to mask for 10 days.

### **Spring break testing**

SMMUSD schools and offices will be providing free at-home Covid-19 test kits prior to spring break. We ask that students and staff test prior to return on April 17, either that morning or the evening before. This is extremely important to minimize risk of transmission and spread as families are traveling and gathering over break and for spring holidays.

### **Stay healthy!**

LACDPH strongly recommends that residents stay up to date on vaccines and boosters, test before gatherings, stay home when sick and seek treatment.

The ongoing health and wellness of our students and staff are our top priorities. Together, we continue to move forward in a positive manner, in-person, with our full array of academic, extracurricular, social emotional and wellness programs, to ensure the success of our students.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Mark O. Kelly, Ed. D.  
Interim Superintendent

*Link to the full LACDPH guideline updates:*

[Appendix T1: Covid-19 Protocol for TK-12 Schools](#)

[Appendix T2: Covid-19 Exposure Management Plan Guidance in TK-12 Schools \(3/14/23\)](#)