

Jan. 7, 2023

# Superintendent's Message: Illness Prevention and Return to School After Winter Break

Dear Parents, Guardians and Staff,

## **Happy New Year!**

I hope you had a restful, peaceful and enjoyable holiday with your loved ones. We are looking forward to elementary students returning on Monday, Jan. 8, 2024 and secondary students on Tuesday, Jan. 9, 2024.

Our communities are experiencing an increase of illness so we would like to provide a few reminders to help minimize exposure and spread.

The California Department of Public Health has provided an info sheet to help parents keep their kids healthy this winter: <a href="English">English</a> / <a href="Spanish">Spanish</a>.

### Stay home if sick

As a reminder, we ask that if your child(ren) are sick, please keep them home. This includes staff members, as well. Many respiratory illnesses are circulating in LA County, including COVID-19, RSV, and influenza, and even if you test negative for COVID-19, everyone should stay home if they have any symptoms of respiratory illness, including, fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, sore throat, congestion and/or runny nose. As a reminder, in addition to the common symptoms of respiratory illness, COVID-19 symptoms may also include new loss of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting, and/or diarrhea.

#### Test kits at schools

We have free COVID-19 test kits in our school offices, while supplies last.

#### **Vaccines**

Free COVID19 and flu vaccines are available to children and adults. Schedule at <a href="https://www.myturn.ca.gov">www.myturn.ca.gov</a> or contact your medical provider.

Recently there have been questions from a few parents and staff regarding our indoor air quality. I would like to share a recent update on the status of our healthy classrooms and indoor spaces for you to understand the care we are taking to protect student and staff health: <a href="English">English</a> / <a href="Spanish">Spanish</a>.

We thank you for your ongoing efforts to keep our school communities safe.

Sincerely,

Dr. Antonio Shelton, Superintendent