



Community Transmittal

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Dear LUSD Community:

COVID/Vaccines

We have been and continue to meet almost daily with SBCEO and SBCPH to discuss rollout plans for vaccinations. We are coming up with common criteria for those of our staff who will be given the first opportunity to get the vaccine, based on their level of exposure. We will be following the path of a child from home to school to identify who should be vaccinated first. For example, from the time a child boards the bus (bus drivers/attendants/crossing guards), to when they enter the front office of the school (office staff), to the classroom (Certificated staff including speech, psychologists, etc.), to the playground (noon-duty aides), to the regular cleaning of the campus (custodians), these are the staff we will be advocating for getting first priority in Phase IB as they are the most exposed to others. As we learn more, we will share more.

On Wednesday night at about 9 pm, we received an email from SBCEO indicating that our nurses and LVNs could register to get the vaccine. However, they had to register by the very next day. We quickly identified all of those staff and communicated with them, even though it was late in the evening, about their ability to sign up and the requirements to do so. This is exciting because we are getting closer and closer to being able to get our staff vaccinated.

Again, Thursday night we received another notification that the vaccines were ready for our nurses. Once again, we notified them so that on Friday, Jan 15th they could get started with their initial vaccine.

Education Center Closure

We had to close the Education Center Complex due to a third positive case of COVID-19. We had planned for this back in March and had hoped that we would never have to pull out our contingency plans. However, here we are. Here is a brief breakdown of the closure:

- The gates were locked and closed at 12:00 on Friday, giving staff time to gather essential materials for working remotely prior to that.
- Our Food Services department is temporarily relocating.
- Our Warehouse deliveries will be re-routed.
- Our print shop continues to be a star in our district. Given that we have material distribution at many sites in the near future, we had teachers worried about getting the materials they needed for their students. Our print shop will modify their operations so that materials can still be distributed to sites.

We are working with SBCPH and a nurse investigator regarding the closure. Provided we don't have another positive case, we will be able to open on January 29th. However, if we have anyone from the Education Center test positive between now and the 29th, the reopening date for

the Education Center is extended for 14 days from the date of the most recent positive case. We are hopeful that our staff will remain healthy during this time and we are praying for our staff who are currently battling COVID.

Los Angeles Times: State lowers threshold for reopening schools, but high COVID-19 rates hold districts back

Governor Gavin Newsom has made changes to his plan to reopen schools, including a small decrease in the case rate that would allow elementary students to campus for in-person classes. Under the new guidance, K-6 schools in counties with a seven-day average of 25 or fewer cases per 100,000 residents would be eligible to begin reopening, down from the 28 cases per 100,000 that the governor had announced in December.

But even that reduced number is significantly lower than the current rates in many California counties, offering diminished hope that schools — particularly in Southern California — can reopen soon. In L.A. County, for example, the adjusted COVID-19 case rate is 77 per 100,000 residents; Orange County, 79; Riverside County, 107; San Bernardino County 103 and San Diego County, 70. In December, Newsom announced a \$2-billion package of incentives to encourage a return to in-person classes. The governor also announced Thursday an [online reporting portal and hotline](#) that will allow parents and staff to report school safety concerns and a [website that will serve](#) as an information hub for reopening and allow school administrators to request technical help to develop and implement safety plans. The reopening guidance requires that masks be worn by all students regardless of age and recommends that staff members who come into regular contact with others wear disposable surgical masks.

EdSource: Newsom opens one-stop COVID information ‘hub’ on reopening schools

Gov. Gavin Newsom announced Thursday the creation of one online spot where school districts can find technical information and resources, and parents can find answers and lodge concerns on reopening schools during the pandemic. It includes a website that will launch later this month that will list COVID outbreaks by school and district and permit parents to file complaints online and through a hotline telephone if their schools are not following safety protocols.

The new [Safe Schools for All Hub](#), linking to California Department of Public Health guidelines and providing new resources and rationales for the state’s COVID strategies, elaborates on Newsom’s initial Safe Schools for All plan that he announced on Dec. 30. He had promised but not detailed more transparency, data and reassurances to justify his goal of reopening elementary schools in February and March.

LINK TO SAFE SCHOOLS FOR ALL HUB

https://schools.covid19.ca.gov/?_cldee=ZWR3YXJkcy5zaGlybGV5QGx1c2Qub3Jn&recipientid=contact-bdfb918fe8e4e41180e2005056b02a09-12f753f3c9ec45f6a10ff2bc79abbdbc&esid=5fba2a82-b356-eb11-8140-005056b02a09

EdSource, commentary: To help get kids back in school, California should temporarily suspend local collective bargaining

Everyone that I know wants to get California’s 6 million-plus public school children back in school

as quickly and as safely as possible. If we're really going to get there though, state leaders, starting with Gov. Newsom, are going to have to think out of the box as this once-in-a-century pandemic continues unabated. The Governor deserves praise for his recent budget and school reopening proposals, but schools aren't going to reopen anytime soon across the state if the details and agreements on in-person instruction have to be reached through local collective bargaining agreements and memoranda of understanding in more than a 1,000 school districts. I offer this point of view knowing that, in a career that has spanned more than fifty years, I have been a consistent advocate and champion for local control of schools. ... Having said all that, I believe that Governor Newsom should use his emergency authority during this pandemic to temporarily suspend local collective bargaining, and that he should sit down with the leaders of CTA, CFT and CSEA to negotiate a safe statewide reopening of all public schools for in-person instruction.

Education Week: Districts retreat to remote learning even as Biden calls for reopening schools

President-elect Joe Biden has made reopening school buildings a top priority, but districts are going in the opposite direction, retreating into all-remote instruction as COVID-19 levels soar in their communities, according to new data set for release Thursday. A new analysis by the Center on Reinventing Public Education, which tracks how school districts are conducting instruction during the pandemic, found that between early November and late December, the share of school districts offering only remote instruction jumped 10 percentage points. In the nationally representative sample of 477 districts the Center monitors, 21.2 percent were providing all instruction remotely in early November. By late December, that figure rose to 31.7 percent.

CRPE's data is echoed elsewhere. Burbio, another organization that's been tracking schools' instructional modes, found that as of Jan. 13, 49.5 percent of K-12 students nationwide are attending schools that offer only one mode of instruction: virtual learning. That figure was 37.2 percent on Nov. 2.

Los Angeles Daily News: LAUSD says it has no intention of suing over Newsom's school reopening proposal

The Los Angeles Unified School District has no intention of suing the state over Gov. Gavin Newsom's school reopening proposal, the district said Thursday, Jan. 14. Although the school board had, during its meeting this week, granted Superintendent Austin Beutner permission to explore all options — including legal actions — for seeking government reimbursement for the 30 million meals the district has provided to needy adults in the community since the coronavirus pandemic began, it did not authorize the district to sue the state over the Safe Schools for All proposal, the district explained in a statement correcting the record.

Rather, the board had, during its closed session, approved a separate resolution supporting LAUSD's efforts to work with the governor and state Legislature on school reopening plans. "The operative phrase is 'work with,'" reads the statement. "The goal of this effort is to make sure the state budget actions and policies address the needs of the students and families Los Angeles Unified serves." The statement further explained that there was an error on the closed session agenda and that "there was no intention for any type of action against the State of California, state entities and public officials related to the state's 'Safe Schools for All' framework. This was in error as the report should have referred only to reimbursement for food relief."

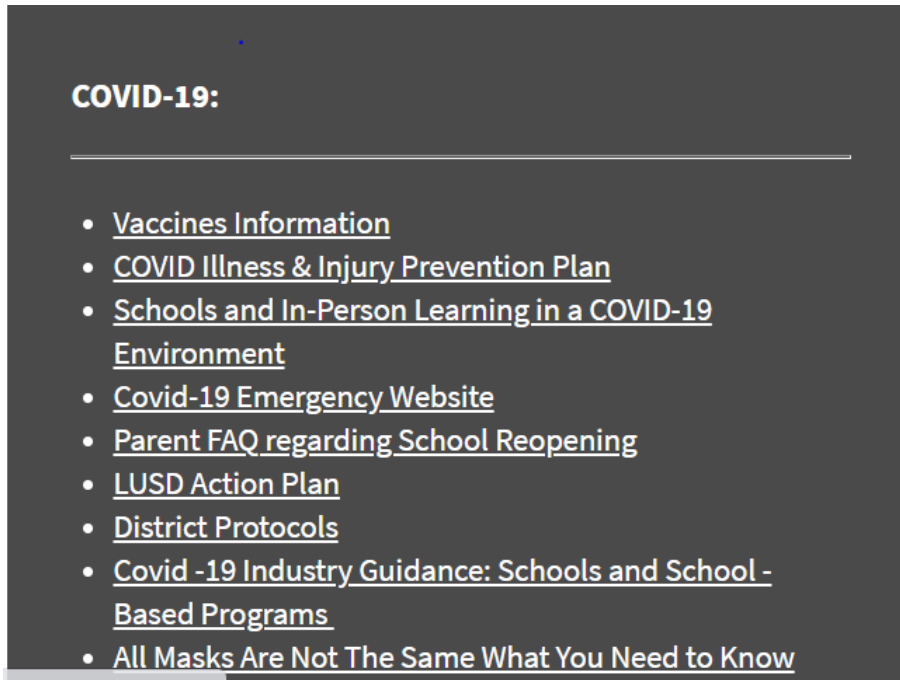
Valencia Labs

We attended a meeting this week with Valencia Labs, the lab Governor Newsom spoke about regarding increased staff testing. We will continue to attend these weekly meetings to learn more about the program and if it will work for us for the increased need for testing once we return to in-person. However, as we know things are rapidly changing, so we will continue to keep you up to date on this matter.

Reopening

The sites all have their reopening parent meetings scheduled. With the new Safe Schools for All plan, there are no longer waivers. The plan allows schools to open when the case rate has dropped to at least 25 per 100,000. SB County is currently at 38 per 100,000. In addition, Districts must submit their Safety Plan, sometimes also called the Injury and Illness Prevention Plan and get approval from the County. Labor unions must also be consulted. You can access our safety plan here: <https://www.lusd.org/covid-19-resources>.

Scroll to the middle of the page and click on “COVID Illness & Injury Prevention Plan”



All elementary sites have their reopening videos specific to their sites posted on their school websites as well for parents to access.

LCAP Update

LUSD expects to receive a substantial update from the California Department of Education on the requirements for completing the 2019-20 and 2020-21 Annual Updates as well as a finalized version of the three-year 2021-2024 Local Control Accountability Plan by the end of January. LUSD staff are preparing to engage all stakeholders in LCAP planning meetings by attending site staff meetings, School Site Council meetings, ELAC and DELAC meetings, as well as meetings with other parent, teacher, student, and classified staff leadership groups. The next district Parent Advisory Committee meeting will be on Monday, February 1st where LUSD staff will provide an update on the Annual Updates and LCAP process. Staff will continue to post all relevant updates and information related to LCAP here: <https://www.lusd.org/departments/curriculumandinstruction>.

IPads

All 2,200 iPads have arrived and IT has begun the process for getting them deployed. We should start seeing iPads in classrooms by the end of January to early February, but we can only

deploy 60 a day at this time, so all 2,200 will not be in use until late February to early March. Beyond that, internet bandwidth and COVID distancing limitations restrict our ability to process more quickly.

Semester 2 Schedule Planning

District staff have been working very closely with secondary admin and counselors, and Aequitas Q staff to ensure that Semester 2 planning has sufficient flexibility to allow for all attendance possibilities. Students may begin 100% remote but be in Independent Study, Hybrid, and remote by the end of the school year. The amount of time and effort put into this process has been extreme, but ultimately, working as a team we've managed to make it possible to have all of these options available to secondary staff.

Attendance

We continue to wait on our auditor to get approval for teachers to bypass the mandate of a weekly wet signature to verify their attendance. If this waiver gets approved, all teachers will no longer be required to spend the extra time to sign these weekly forms. We hope to get some good news soon.

Foster Youth/Homeless

LUSD received the needs assessment completed by an outside agency and we will be focusing on some of the areas to focus on. Some of those include professional development for all staff on the laws and identification of foster youth and homeless and to streamline our systems in order to ensure all staff can support those students/families with resources.

The county McKinney-Vento training is now set up online for all of our liaisons to start increasing their knowledge on how to better serve this group of students. We look forward to offering this training to all staff in the near future.

CTE

Our first ever SLO and SB county CTE teacher collaboration is coming soon, February 3. We expect many of our LUSD teachers will choose to participate in learning how job alike teachers from around the two counties are managing during this distance learning time. Giving these talented teachers this time to collaborate will only strengthen their instructional methods and will ultimately help our students.

Safety

North County Rape Crisis Center continues to assist our students with the ChildSafe program. Since they started in mid-September, they have provided ChildSAFE to 1,966 students at 12 schools, grades K-12. Feedback from teachers has been positive as well as helpful as they continue to adapt to this new learning environment. Staff from the ChildSafe program states, "Everyone has had to make a lot of adjustments and we are appreciative of the patience and flexibility that teachers and administrators at the school sites have afforded us. We are energized to continue to meet the needs after Winter break and look forward to the day when we can be back in front of the students in person. Thank you for the continued opportunity to share this important message with students. We hope that our impact of helping to keep our children safe is felt by all."

Maintenance & Operations Update

LUSD's Maintenance Direct online work order system, which is perpetually changing due to incoming work orders and completed work orders, dropped to 299 open work orders for a brief period earlier this week. As you may know, in 2013, that system was loaded with more than 2,700 open work orders amongst all of our school sites.

Thank you for your support.

Trevor McDonald
Superintendent of Schools