



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.

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Marin County School Guidelines Update

Dear Marin School Community:

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Prior to the return to school earlier this month, Marin County Public Health implemented short-term mitigation strategies to balance the goals of keeping schools open, slowing transmission of a new, more contagious variant, and optimizing the school and sports environment.

We are now seeing a downward trend in case rates, and our assessment is that the crest of the Omicron wave is behind us. While we are still experiencing high rates of transmission, cases among staff and students are declining. Thanks to your collective efforts the Marin school environment has been stable, and schools and classrooms have remained open through the peak of the Omicron surge.

This week we are issuing relaxed guidance and harm-reduction strategies (effective tomorrow, Tuesday, January 25th) that align with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommendations for outdoor masking and spectators at mega-events and, respectively. We have also strengthened our recommendation for all persons in the school setting to wear the most protective mask that fits well and will be worn consistently. Now and for the near future, masks and other evidence-based preventive measures continue to play important roles in slowing COVID transmission in our community.

As always, local school districts and schools may adopt more restrictive policies based on local realities while navigating their school community through change.

Thank you for your ongoing support and partnership to keep schools open and to create safer environments where students can thrive.

Sincerely,

Matt Willis, MD, MPH
Health Officer

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