

Dear Lodi Families and Staff,

I wanted to take this opportunity to reach out and communicate to families and staff regarding changes to our ongoing COVID-19 mitigation efforts in the District based on the most recent medical advisory committee meeting on February 22, 2022.

### **Upcoming Changes to our Face Covering Protocol**

At the end of the school day on February 25, the School District of Lodi will move to a recommended, but not required, face covering environment. The medical advisory committee feels that now is a reasonable time to pivot due to the recent significant drop in COVID-19 cases, the number of students and staff that are vaccinated against COVID-19, and the number of students and staff in the district that have been recently infected. They feel that this provides a buffer in the system which allows for this change to be made at this time.

*Please note that due to federal Mandate, face coverings will still need to be worn on all buses at least through March 18, 2022.*

### **Other COVID-19 Mitigation Strategies- What you need to know (based on the recommendation of the medical advisory committee):**

- The District will continue to track active COVID-19 cases.
- The District will continue to provide COVID testing and encourage testing of those with symptoms or exposures.
- The District will continue with contact tracing to inform students, staff, and families of potential exposures. Depending on staff capacity, this could move to targeted contact tracing.
- Positive COVID-19 cases will still be excluded/isolated for five days and can return to school on day 6 (if symptoms are improved and the students can participate effectively in school) but are required to wear a mask through day 10.
  - Those who wish not to wear a mask during the 6-10 day window continue to have the option to complete their full isolation at home.
- Close contacts of positive COVID-19 cases that are vaccinated, or have recently had COVID-19 (within the past 90 days) or were wearing their mask properly during the exposure should monitor for symptoms but can continue to attend school. Getting a COVID-19 test on day 5 is recommended, but not required.
- Close contacts of positive COVID-19 cases that are unvaccinated and were unmasked during the exposure have two options if they remain symptom free:
  - Option 1: Student/staff member can quarantine at home for five days and return with a negative COVID-19 test (PCR) with mask being recommended but not required.
  - Option 2: Student/staff members can attend school but are asked to wear a face covering for 10 days from contact and continue to monitor for symptoms.
- Household close contacts have two options if they remain symptom free:
  - Option 1: Student/staff members can attend school but are asked to wear a face covering for 10 days and continue to monitor for symptoms. Getting a COVID-19 test on day 5 is recommended, but not required.
  - Option 2: Those who wish not to wear a mask continue to have the option to complete their full quarantine at home.

The importance of symptom monitoring and testing is enhanced during this transition. With the roll back of mitigation efforts in the District, symptom monitoring and testing becomes more important for families and staff to help stop the spread of COVID-19 in our school and community.

### **Summary**

The District will continue to be diligent in monitoring positive COVID-19 cases, secondary transmission of COVID-19 in school, and other internal data regarding COVID-19. It is possible based on this data that the District will need to pivot to face covering (or other mitigation) at the classroom, grade, or school level in the future based on this information; we continue to be hopeful that this will not be the case. If any safety and communication protocols are changed, we will communicate them to you as soon as possible.

In addition to sharing these changes, I would ask for your partnership in supporting our school community members. Regardless of whether your child is excited, scared, worried, or uncertain, for all children (& many of us as adults!), times of transition can be unsettling. Your child may need extra love, support, and time for connection during this transition phase. We will be encouraging children to demonstrate kindness with themselves and their peers. I hope that you will also reinforce the importance of respecting and supporting those in our classrooms regardless of the individual masking decisions families make.

Sincerely,

Vince Breunig, District Administrator  
School District of Lodi



