



Superintendent's UPDATE

Thursday, March 3, 2022

COVID-19 School and Vaccination Update

Dear San Mateo County Education and Child Care Community,

After a break of a couple weeks, I wanted to share a COVID-19 school and vaccination update. To start, the number of COVID-19 cases in schools has continued to drop significantly in recent weeks. Schools are able to focus more attention and time on teaching and supporting their students, which couldn't make me happier.

Masks in Schools

The other big news this week was the State's announcement of a shift in its policy on masks in schools. On March 12, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) will strongly recommend that masks be worn indoors in schools. San Mateo County Health announced that it is aligned with CDPH on this recommendation. Until March 11, masks will be required indoors in schools.

CDPH shared that it is now looking at masking along a continuum: required, strongly recommended, recommended, and optional. As conditions improve, CDPH will continue to ease its guidance around masks. Similarly, if we experience another spike, CDPH may tighten up its guidance.

Schools in San Mateo County have followed CDPH and SMC Health guidance throughout the pandemic with good results. Because of the safety measures they put in place, schools have stayed open to in-person learning throughout the school year, even during surges. Masks have been part of that success. According to [CDPH](#), "throughout this pandemic, the masking requirement in California schools has allowed us to keep schools open when compared to other parts of the country."

Vaccinations

We continue to receive good news on the vaccination front as well. As of this week, 59.6 percent of children ages 5-11 have received two doses of vaccine, up from 55.7 percent when I reported the data in mid-February. The vaccination rate for youth ages 12-15 moved from 81.4 percent to 82 percent during this same period. The booster rate for this group is moving up as well, with 37.9 percent having received a COVID-19 booster.

To help send these vaccination rates even higher, SMC Health is now offering vaccinations to children ages 5-11 at six of its weekly clinics. This is on top of the 17 weekly clinics offering vaccinations and boosters to those 12 and up. These clinics are located in the following communities: South San Francisco, Daly City, San Mateo, Half Moon Bay, Redwood City, and East Palo Alto. More information can be found on the [SMC Health website](#).

Thank you all for your work to support our students and schools.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nancy Magee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy Magee
San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools

Please note: A copy of this letter in Spanish will be [posted here](#) shortly.