

October 30, 2020

Good Evening to our San Marcos Unified Community,

We have successfully completed two weeks of in-person learning and we look forward to welcoming our 2nd and 3rd graders back to campus next week.

Please see below for reminders regarding in-person learning and SMUSD COVID-19 protocols.

In-Person Learning Reminders

To our parents who will be bringing their students to campus for the first time next week, please remember to do the following:

1. Read and sign the [SMUSD Parent Health and Safety Agreement](#). Print and sign the agreement; your site principal will communicate how your student(s) will turn in the signature page.
2. Read [SMUSD's Face Covering Policy](#) and review with your student.
3. Activate your student's account for the [LumiSight](#) screener so that you will be ready for the required daily screenings to enter campus. On Friday, October 16th, your student should have received an account activation email to their @smusd.org email address from LumiSight. You will need to click the link contained in that email to activate your student's LumiSight account. Please remember that students must be screened in order to enter campus. The LumiSight app allows for pre-screening at home and will greatly reduce the amount of time it will take to enter campuses.
4. Review the [SMUSD COVID 19 Guide for Parents](#) and the [SMUSD COVID 19 Symptoms Guidance for Parents](#) to aid you if your student becomes ill or is showing possible symptoms of COVID 19.

District COVID-19 Protocols

Please review the two parent guides mentioned above if your student is ill, is showing symptoms, or has had close contact with an individual who has tested positive. If a school receives information that an individual on campus has tested positive for COVID-19, the district plan is immediately put into action which includes student contact tracing protocols, identification of close contacts, notification to close contacts, and notification to the school community.

What is a close contact?

A close contact is defined as someone who has been within less than 6 feet of a positive case for 15 minutes or more in the period 48 hours prior to: 1) when the positive individual begins experiencing symptoms; or 2) the date the test is taken if the individual is asymptomatic.

Although classrooms are arranged so that students are seated 6 feet apart, at various points throughout the day (arrival, gross motor breaks, restroom time, lunch, etc.), it is impossible to

guarantee that school-aged children are always 6 feet or more away from one another. Out of an abundance of caution, our district policy identifies all individuals in the classroom cohort, including the teacher, as “close contacts” in the event of possible exposure.

What if an individual in a classroom has a positive COVID-19 test?

Individuals in the class cohort of the person who tested positive are directed to quarantine for 14 days from the date of exposure. The cohort, including the teacher, will shift to remote instruction for the days of quarantine.

It is not possible for a teacher to teach half of the class remotely and half of the class who are at school in person while they are themselves required to stay home. Therefore, in the event that half of the class (AKA one cohort) is placed in quarantine, the other half of the class will also shift to remote instruction for the duration of the teacher’s quarantine or isolation period.

What type of communication is done if a person on campus has tested positive?

In the event of a positive case, "close contacts" receive communication via phone call and letter. Members of the school community will receive a letter notifying them that an individual has tested positive on campus. Privacy laws prohibit releasing any information that could identify the individual.

On Monday, November 2nd, the district will launch a COVID-19 Dashboard for all confirmed COVID-19 cases connected to SMUSD school sites and district facilities. You will receive a communication when the page goes live.

What warrants a school closure?

Individual school closures are recommended based on the number of cases, the percentage of the teachers/students/staff that are positive for COVID-19, and following consultation with County health officials. School closure may be warranted when at least 5% of the total number of teachers/students/staff have a positive test within a 14-day period.

We will continue to monitor San Diego County health metrics and the state’s Blueprint for a Safer Economy tier status as we navigate our own plans to reopen and stay open safely. We encourage our entire SMUSD community to remain vigilant this holiday weekend, this Tuesday’s Election Day, and throughout this fall and winter season to limit the spread of COVID-19 and to help ensure that our schools can continue on the road to reopening.

Have a wonderful (and SAFE!) weekend,

Tiffany Campbell

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