Return to School: Board Update

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NEWS RELEASE



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L.A. County Department of Public Health Statement on Schools Reopening

The state permits elementary schools to reopen as soon as we reach an adjusted case rate of 25 per 100,000. We are informing Los Angeles County schools tonight via an emailed letter that we expect to announce we have reached this threshold effective Tuesday, February 16.

This encouraging news means that dozens of elementary schools will be permitted to reopen for in-class instruction for students grades TK-6 as early as this week.

All schools wishing to reopen must submit plans to the County Department of Public Health and the California Department of Public Health certifying that they have implemented a full range of safety measures to permit a safe reopening.

Dr. Barbara Ferrer will release additional information Tuesday afternoon at a media briefing at 2:00 p.m. This is an encouraging milestone and we look forward to continuing to work with all stakeholders to ensure safety for students, teachers and staff returning to schools.

Required Elements of Reopening Plans (TK-5)

 The State's COVID-19 Safety Plan (CSP) consists of two parts:

1. Cal/OSHA Prevention Program – further information available here



 LACDPH Reopening Protocol for K-12 Schools (Appendix T1)



LACDPH CSP Review Process

 The State's Safe Schools for All team and LACDPH have 7 <u>business</u> days to review CSP and reply regarding any deficiencies noted.

• If a submitter <u>does not receive a reply</u> within 7 business days from either the state or the county, the COVID-19 Safety Plan is approved, and the school is free to open when the proper case rate threshold is achieved (NOTE: This threshold was met on 2/15/21).



Latest Update: Vaccinations



 Target of March 1 - Depending on availability of the vaccine, the following groups are eligible to get vaccinated: health care workers, nursing home residents and staff, workers in food and agriculture,
 educators and childcare providers, emergency services workers, and Californians 65 and older. myturn.ca.gov/

Starting March 15, people age 16
 to 64 with disabilities or severe
 underlying conditions that put them at high
 risk if they contract Covid-19 will also be
 eligible to be inoculated.

Whittier School District Vaccine Consortium



 DUSD is <u>officially</u> part of Whittier Schools vaccine consortium

 25 staff 65+ will be vaccinated this Friday at Whittier PIH

 We are optimistic that after March 1, as the vaccinations become more readily available, access will be expanded to include all our staff.

Vaccination Update - Cont.

LAUSD to open 10K-shots-per-day COVID-19 vaccine site at SoFi Stadium

INGLEWOOD — L.A. Unified announced a collaboration Wednesday with the Los Angeles Rams, Hollywood Park and the city of Inglewood to operate a large-scale vaccination site on the grounds of SoFi Stadium that could serve teachers and school staff in L.A. County. The site would have the capacity to vaccinate up to 10,000 people a day.



Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Mitigation - Updated Feb. 12, 2021

• Evidence suggests that many K-12 schools that have <u>strictly implemented mitigation</u> <u>strategies</u> have been able to safely open for in-person instruction and remain open.

• This document provides an operational strategy to support K-12 schools in opening for in-person instruction and remaining open through an integrated package of mitigation components.



Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools

• Essential Elements Include:

- 1. Consistent implementation of layered mitigation strategies to reduce transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in schools
- 2. Indicators of community transmission to reflect level of community risk
- 3. Phased mitigation and learning modes based on levels of community transmission



CDC School Operation Cont.

The following public health efforts provide additional layers of COVID-19 prevention in schools:

 Testing to identify individuals with SARS-CoV-2 infection to limit transmission and outbreaks



 Vaccination for teachers and school staff, and in communities, as soon as supply allows

Essential Elements of Safe K-12 School In-person Instruction



1. Mitigation strategies to reduce transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in schools

Regardless of the level of community transmission, all schools should use and layer <u>mitigation strategies</u>. Five key mitigation strategies are essential to safe delivery of in-person instruction and help to mitigate COVID-19 transmission in schools:

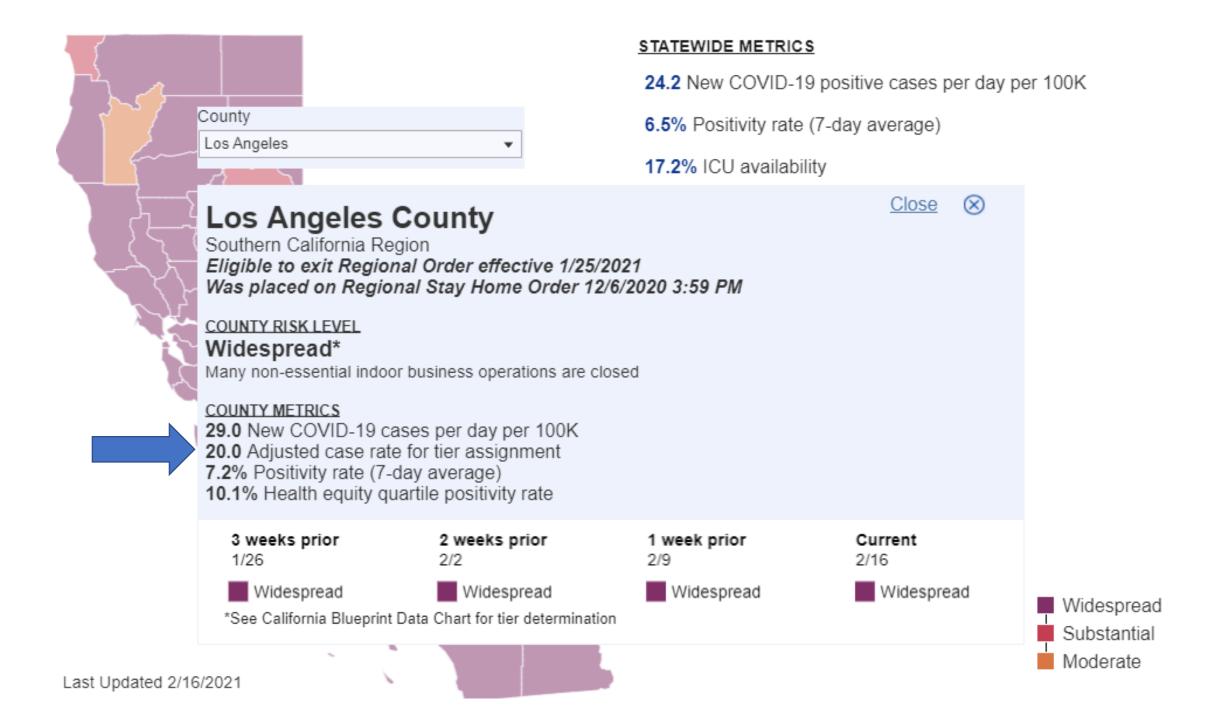
- Universal and correct use of <u>masks</u>
- Physical distancing
- Handwashing and respiratory etiquette
- Cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities
- Contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine, in collaboration with the health department

Essential Elements of Safe K-12 School In-person Instruction



2. Indicators of community transmission

- School administrators, working with local public health officials, should assess the level of risk in the community since the risk of introduction of a case in the school setting is dependent on the level of community transmission. <u>CDC</u> <u>recommends the use of two measures</u> of community burden to determine the level of risk of transmission:
- 1. Total number of new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days
- 2. Percentage of nucleic acid amplification test (NAATs) results that are positive during the last 7 days.



County risk level	Adjusted case rate* 7-day average of daily COVID-19 cases per 100K with 7-day lag, adjusted for number of tests performed	Positivity rate** 7-day average of all COVID-19 tests performed that are positive		
		Entire county	Health equity quartile	
Many non-essential indoor business operations are closed	More than 7.0 Daily new cases (per 100k)	More than 8.0% Positive tests		
SUBSTANTIAL Some non-essential indoor business operations are closed	4.0 - 7.0 Daily new cases (per 100k)	5.0 - 8.0% Positive tests	5.3 – 8.0% Positive tests	
MODERATE Some indoor business operations are open with modifications	1.0 - 3.9 Daily new cases (per 100k)	2.0 - 4.9% Positive tests	2.2 - 5.2% Positive tests	
MINIMAL Most indoor business operations are open with modifications	Less than 1.0 Daily new cases (per 100k)	Less than 2.0% Positive tests	Less than 2.2% Positive tests	

Blueprint for a Safer Economy

Indicators of community transmission – cont.

Table 1. CDC Indicators and Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-191





Indicator	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days ²	0-9	10-49	50-99	≥100
Percentage of NAATs that are positive during the past 7 days ³	<5.0%	5.0%-7.9%	8.0%-9.9%	≥10.0%

Essential Elements of Safe K-12 School Inperson Instruction



3. Phased mitigation, learning modes, and testing

• At any level of community transmission, all schools have options to provide in-person instruction (either full or hybrid), through strict adherence to mitigation strategies¹. The recommended learning modes (in-person, hybrid, virtual) depend on the level of community transmission and strict adherence to mitigation.

Table 2. Recommended Implementation of Mitigation Strategies and K-12 School Learning Modes by Level of Community Transmission for Schools



Low Transmission Blue Moderate
Transmission
Yellow

Substantial Transmission Orange

High Transmission Red

All schools: Universal and correct use of masks is required; physical distancing; handwashing and respiratory etiquette; cleaning and maintaining healthy facilities; contact tracing in combination with isolation and quarantine. Diagnostic testing Symptomatic students, teachers, and staff and close contacts referred for diagnostic testing

Table 2. Recommended Implementation of Mitigation Strategies and K-12 School Learning Modes by Level of Community Transmission for Schools – Cont.

Low Transmission 1Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red	
K-12 schools open for full in-person instruction Physical distancing of 6 feet or more to the greatest extent possible3		Elementary schools in hybrid learning mode or reduced attendance Physical distancing of 6 feet or more is required		
		Middle and high schools in hybrid learning mode or reduced attendance Physical distancing of 6 feet or more is required	Middle and high schools in virtual only instruction unless they can strictly implement all mitigation strategies, and have few cases;	



Vaccination for teachers and staff, and in communities as soon as supply allows

- The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)
 recommends that frontline essential workers, including those who work
 in the education sector (teachers and school staff), be prioritized for
 vaccine allocation in phase 1b, following health care personnel and
 residents of long-term care facilities (phase 1a).
- Vaccinating teachers and school staff can be considered one layer of mitigation and protection for staff and students. Access to vaccination should not be considered a condition for reopening schools for inperson instruction.

REMAINING ITEMS FOR SAFE SCHOOL RETURN

- Submit COVID Safety Plan and LACDPH Reopening Protocol for K-12 Schools (Appendix T1)
- Continue to partner with agencies to expedite vaccination process for our staff
- Survey Elementary Parents to reassess interest for student return to on campus learning
- Based on survey results, collaboratively finalize elmentary hybrid schedules
- Release "safe return to school" video
- Elementary Parent Nights to review safety protocols for each school site
- Continue to monitor Governor and Legislature finalization of return to school budget details



NEXT RETURN TO SCHOOL

PRESENTATION - SCHOOL BOARD

MEETING FEBRUARY 23, 2021

