



August 20, 2021

## **Superintendent's Message: COVID-19 Testing for Students and Staff**

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff and Community Members,

Welcome to the 2021-22 school year! We had a good start to the new school year and it's great to see all the smiling students and staff faces behind masks. We appreciate the strong adherence to our health and safety protocols on our campuses.

**We are starting our COVID-19 testing of students and staff next week.** Mandatory testing is required for the health and safety of all students and staff to prevent the spread of COVID-19, so we may best ensure the continuation of in-person school this year.

Here are the details:

- All staff and students, regardless of vaccination status, will be required to undergo regular mandatory testing.
- Testing will be conducted at each school site, per a schedule that will be conveyed to parents and staff.
- Testing is a quick painless nasal swab that will be self-administered, except for students needing assistance, who may get adult help or other accommodations on an individual basis.
- Site administrators will be sending out registration information with instructions once the details are finalized by the testing companies. Please register as soon as you receive the instructions!
- Registration is required and testing results will be uploaded for parent visibility, as well as school administration.
- Evidence of a negative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) COVID-19 test result will be required to access district campuses and facilities.
- If a student refuses testing, the student will be sent home and will not be permitted until school authorities are satisfied that any contagious or infectious disease does not exist.
- Families may submit a [test and or mask exemption form](#) for religious grounds, disability, medical condition, mental health condition, or hearing condition that prevents their child from participating.

We have engaged with two medical partners to initiate and manage this complex program: Dr. Now and Malibu Medical Group/CURE. Contracts will be submitted for board approval at a special board meeting scheduled for 5 p.m. on August 23, 2021. At this meeting we will also provide a deeper description of how we anticipate rolling out the testing process and other related information.

Meeting Zoom login info can be found here: <https://www.smmusd.org/domain/2977>

Anticipated costs will be covered by a Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) grant of \$1.8 million. Insurance will be billed by our medical partners and there will be some government reimbursement for uninsured individuals. There may be an additional district cost of approximately \$110,000 for the school year.

We understand that parents and staff are anxious to get our testing program up and running. We are working with our medical partners to get the program set up as quickly as possible and expecting testing to commence on Wednesday, August 25, 2021. Please watch for information from your site administrator with the final details and registration instructions.

If you have not yet registered for the [digital wellness screening service](#), please do so immediately. [Students](#). [Staff](#). Spanish may be selected at the top of the screen in the settings.

Other COVID-19 information can be found online: [www.smmusd.org/Coronavirus](http://www.smmusd.org/Coronavirus).

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ben Drati, Superintendent