

Superintendent's Update

COVID-19 Safety

Board of Education Meeting

February 2, 2021

Meeting No. 15



Excelling Together with Endless Pathways for Success!

Organizing for Success for the 2020-21 Academic Year Continuous Improvement Phase





COVID-19 Safety and Return to School Update

- **January 18-29:** GUSD paused on-campus activities based on health department recommendation
- **January 25:** Governor lifted Regional Stay at Home Order
- **January 29:** LA County Public Health issued Revised Reopening Safer at Work and in the Community Order
- **February 1:** GUSD resumed on-campus activities including classroom instruction at Mann, Technology Learning Pods, specialized services, and athletic conditioning



COVID-19 Safety and Return to School Update

- LA County Public Health increased cohort size for childcare and specialized services to 14 students with 2 adults (total of 16)
- Some GUSD teachers have volunteered to open specialized services classrooms for students with moderate-to-severe disabilities
- Learning essential practices from school districts that have resumed in-person instruction for elementary students

Current Status of Los Angeles County



	Los Angeles County Statistics as of 1/26/21	Level Necessary to Move Into Red Tier
New Adjusted Case Rate - COVID-19 Cases per day per 100K	48.2	4.0-7.0
Positivity Rate (7-day average)	13.9%	5.0-8.0%
Health Equity Quartile Positivity Rate	18.3%	5.3-8.0%

Schools may not reopen fully for in-person instruction until the county has been in the Substantial (red) tier for 5 days



Next Steps for Spring 2021

- Glendale Unified has committed to remain distance learning until at least March 12 (end of third quarter/ day before spring break)
- Should schools reopen for in-person learning, a distance learning option will continue to be available
- According to the Blueprint for a Safer Economy, K-12 schools can reopen for in-person instruction once their county is consistently in the Substantial (red) tier

Healthcare Partners Advisory February 1

USC Verdugo Hills Hospital
Keck Medicine of USC

Adventist Health
Glendale

Dignity Health.
Glendale Memorial Hospital
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Question to Advisory Members:

With the change in the State's priorities for vaccine distribution, will there be opportunities for GUSD employees to receive vaccinations from our local healthcare partners?

- State is controlling the distribution of vaccinations and individuals 65 years and older have priority
- Anticipate moving to other priorities (educators) in March



Planning for Vaccinations

- GUSD Vaccination Interest Survey:
 - 2,160 responses – 62% response rate
 - 76% want the vaccination
 - 16% do not want the vaccination
 - 8% are unsure
- GUSD is working with valued healthcare partners to distribute vaccinations to employees as soon as sufficient inventory becomes available
- State has announced Blue Shield will oversee vaccine distribution statewide
- Educators still expected to be eligible to receive the vaccine in late

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Question to Advisory Members:

Is there evidence that on-going surveillance testing increases student and employee safety?

- Effective for making employees feel more comfortable, but not effective for truly minimizing exposure
- Demand for voluntary surveillance testing tends to decrease as vaccination rates increase

Partnering with Valencia Branch Laboratory to Provide On-Going COVID-19 Testing

Background Information

What

The State of California has opened the **new Valencia Branch Laboratory (VBL)** with the goal of dramatically increasing daily COVID-19 testing by another 150,000 tests per day with a rapid turnaround time of under 48 hours¹



The test kits provided are **anterior nasal swabs**, which can be self-administered and are less painful than other swab types²

Who

For **employers and community organizations** that would like to expand their COVID-19 testing efforts, the State of California is providing **test kits, test registration software, test processing, and technical assistance**

Why

This program aims to make it **easier to start a testing program, ensure timely results** and remove barriers in an organized, cost-effective, and efficient manner



Partnering with Valencia Branch Laboratory to Provide On-Going COVID-19 Testing

State Responsibilities

- **Test kits**
- **Test processing** and, as appropriate, recoup costs through a third-party biller
- **Sample processing** in the laboratory
- **Results with a 24-48 hour turnaround goal**
- **Detailed support and instructions** for operating testing sites
- **Patient registration system**, and test result monitoring and notification system

District Responsibilities

- **Submit request** for required number of test kits
- **Procure PPE and provide physical space** for testing
- **Conduct community outreach** to drive participation in testing
- **Provide staff and manage on-site logistics**, such as patient registration, information collection etc.
- **Supervise self-administered nasal swabs** at testing site
- **Package, coordinate and cover cost of transportation** of samples

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Question to Advisory Members:

What air filtration systems do you think schools should have in place for increased return of students?

- Air filtration and circulation is more important than testing
- Important that any system installed be approved by the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers



Healthcare Partners Webinar

- Webinar presented by GUSD healthcare partners
- Date TBD (February or March)
- Healthcare professionals will answer questions about COVID-19, share essential practices from the medical field, and provide an update on vaccinations



Looking Ahead to 2021-22

- 2021-22 registration begins February 23
- Developing expanded learning, Saturday school, and summer school opportunities blended with academics and enrichment
- Planning student and family orientations
 - Transitional kindergarten and kindergarten
 - Students transitioning to middle and high school
 - New students and families



Questions ?