



Lowell Joint SCHOOL DISTRICT

“Home of Scholars and Champions”



Healthy Families and Staff Newsletter – LJSD Families

Lowell Joint **STRONG**

September 3, 2021

“Character is like a tree and reputation like a shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing.”
Abraham Lincoln



It is amazing, challenging, exciting, and at times overwhelming for all of us as we fully return to school this fall. We have had the expected rise in identified positive COVID cases over the past couple of weeks, but things have begun to slow down over the past 2-3 days. With no intent to minimize the seriousness, this is what we would expect as school opens each year; little folks pass around germs☺. The added challenge is that this germ is more serious and the additional students go home who were “close contacts”, yet not testing positive. The great news is that everyone is doing an incredible job handling each situation with such grace, mercy, patience, and kindness – THANK YOU! We continue to stop and breathe while we take one-step-at-a-time as the Lowell Joint Family walks this through this ever-changing landscape. This is another challenge in which LJSD will exceed because our feet are planted on solid rock!

As you are aware, everything will continue to change and adjust every 4-6 days and sometimes every 2-4 hours. The State, CDPH and CAL/OSHA continue to update their order and at this point, these are the latest updated State, CPHD and CAL/OSHA orders: link ([California Department of Public Health Education Health Order](#)) ([August 20, 2021 CDPH Order](#)). Some key aspects are:

- Health Order - “All schools identified in this Order must verify vaccine status of all workers.” This does **not** mean that every staff must be vaccinated, but show proof or have a weekly COVID test.
- Health Order - “A. Asymptomatic **unvaccinated** or incompletely vaccinated workers are **required to undergo** diagnostic screening testing. B. Workers may be tested with either antigen or molecular tests to satisfy this requirement, but unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated workers must be tested **at least once weekly** with either PCR testing or antigen testing”. This means that all staff who do not provide proof of vaccination will have a weekly COVID test, which we will provide free. Testing will be:
 - Mondays 2:30-4:30 pm or Thursday 3:30-4:30 pm as a drive through at Rancho-Starbuck.
 - Also free testing is already being provided at the City of La Habra Community Center (Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10 am-7 pm and Tuesday & Thursday 7:30 am-3:30 pm).
 - Our LJSD testing company, as well as La Habra City, will also provide free COVID testing for any student and their family, **BUT** this is initiated by the parent and only with the parent present. Testing will not be in school or in classrooms.
- As a reminder, “**This Order shall take effect on August 12, 2021, at 12:01 am. Facilities must be in full compliance with the Order by October 15, 2021**”. We have until October 15th to put this testing system into action, but our LJSD testing cadence will launch September 13, which is a month ahead of the requirement. The City of La Habra is currently available, which is two months ahead of requirement.
- The existing Health Order requires the following:
 - Please keep in mind that anyone and everyone is more than welcome to wear a mask/face shield at all times if they wish to do so. **All staff and students must wear a mask while indoors**. Students and/or staff can wear a face shield if they have a medical exemption provided by a licensed medical practitioner.
- Additional action that LJSD will continue even though they are not required in the Health Order:

- All staff will continue their daily Health Survey.
- If students do not feel well, we expect them to stay home and/or we will immediately send them home.
- Anyone who comes onto campus, for school business only will be required to complete the Health Survey. All other visitors/volunteers will need to wait until at least October 1st.
- Hand sanitizer, wipes, gloves, masks, etc. are available everywhere.
- Staff are to continue ventilating their classrooms: run the A/C, open doors and windows, etc.
- Any room that could be considered affected is deep sanitized by the implementation of surgical UV light sanitizing equipment.
- Though not required, we continue to maintain and weekly update our COVID dashboard, which can be found on our webpage. On a side note, please anticipate a launch of our new webpage format within the next couple of weeks.

We realize and recognize that the disruption of students' required quarantining is a very big deal, which is a serious burden on our families. Please know that we are simply following the State Public Health Order and working hard to ensure we do this with kindness and gentleness. We look forward to this wave slowing down and being able to get back to a more normal format. Thank you for helping by following all of the health guidelines to slow the spread of germs and COVID. We really do appreciate you and understand how hard this crazy world is.

We are truly excited to have everyone back home and thank you for constantly taking a deep breath as we continue to walk one-step at a time. Being able to hear the joy of little voices is truly awesome. The past 20 months have been a serious challenge as will the months ahead, BUT the great news is that Lowell Joint will continue to be STRONG and we will exceed. You are truly a blessing. **Please stay connected with your site principal if you have questions, concerns or needs.** You are **GREATLY APPRECIATED, GREATLY VALUED AND GREATLY LOVED!**

We continue to stand in faith as we are **LOWELL JOINT STRONG** and we will stand strong against the storms that come our way; you are the beacon/lighthouse of educational excellence; **THANK YOU!**

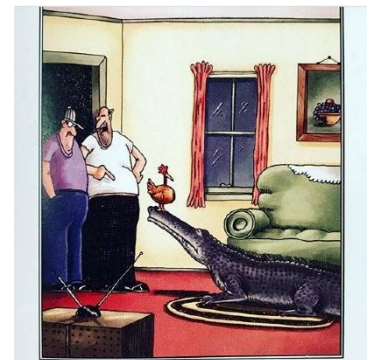
LOWELL JOINT STRONG!!

A littler laughter helps bring joy....

Have you ever felt like the chicken?☺

Labor Day Weekend Warriors with nothing better to do

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"Now watch this. He'll keep that chicken right there until I say okay. ... You wanna say okay, Ernie?"