



Lowell Joint SCHOOL DISTRICT

“Home of Scholars and Champions”



Healthy Families and Staff Newsletter – **Staff and Families!**

Lowell Joint **STRONG**

February 28, 2022

“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



We continue our crazy whirlwind of our ever-changing world with the one constant, which continues to be that everything does change every 2-4 days. I am assuming that you are aware that today, Governor Gavin Newsom announced the state’s requirement for masking in schools will expire on Friday, March 11th at 11:59 p.m. This change will allow students and staff the choice — regardless of vaccination status — to wear or not wear a facemask while indoors at school beginning Saturday, March 12, 2022. We realize that this is not fast enough for some folks, while others believe that it is still too soon, but thank you for your patience.

During a press conference, Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency, cited declining case rates and hospitalizations across the west coast and that California, Oregon and Washington are moving together to update masking guidance. As we have throughout the pandemic, Lowell Joint will continue to align our protocols with the Governor’s Executive Order/CDPH Rules, which in this case will allow students and staff a choice when it comes to wearing masks on campuses starting on Saturday, March 12, 2022, and moving forward. In the meantime, masks are still required for all Lowell Joint School District students and staff while indoors on school sites when students are present through March 11th.

The latest State, CPHD and CAL/OSHA order links are:

[\(K-12 Schools Guidance\)](#) [\(California Department of Public Health Education Health Order\)](#) [\(CDPH Order\)](#)

Governor’s Press Release:

<https://www.gov.ca.gov/2022/02/28/governors-newsom-brown-and-inslee-announce-updated-health-guidance/>

As we look forward to March 12th and the opportunity for our students and staff to choose, we want to keep a few things in mind:

Respecting Personal Choice

- As the state provides personal choice for masking in schools, the Lowell Joint Family will respect individual choices. We will follow the Golden Rule: “treat others as we want to be treated”.
- One should not make assumptions regarding someone’s beliefs or health status based upon their choice to wear or not wear a mask, nor should they comment on them.
- If your student(s) expresses any anxiety, feel free to reach out to your school principal for additional support as needed.

Responsibility

- Please Do Your Part to Help Keep Schools Healthy and Safe:
We know by working together we can limit the spread of COVID-19, and it is going to take a combined effort to continue to keep our schools safe. Here is how you can support our mission to keep students in school:
 - Continue daily home screenings so that you are informed.
 - Keep students home if they are sick, have COVID-19 symptoms, or if they or a member of their household has tested positive or are awaiting COVID-19 test results.

- Keep students home, if they are suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19.

Additional resources for COVID-19 information include:

- [California Department of Public Health COVID-19 Resource Page](#)
- [Orange County Health Care Agency COVID-19 Resource Page](#)
- [Lowell Joint Resource Page \(includes most current COVID dashboard report\)](#)

Thank you for the commitment and resilience of our Lowell Joint family, we are looking forward to turning the page and beginning this new chapter. As such, we want to take this opportunity to remind our community to continue to be kind and respect the personal choices of others. We will avoid making assumptions regarding someone's beliefs or health status based upon their choice to wear or not wear a mask.

We appreciate your continued understanding and support as we work to create safe and healthy environments for learning on our campuses in alignment with the guidance and requirements from CDPH and our local health agency. As we learn more or receive new information, we will continue to keep our community informed.

Please remember that LJSD will absolutely exceed as we keep cowboying-up and getting done. 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 TOGETHER!!

A parent sent this picture and note to me recently:

For a small amount of perspective at this moment, imagine you were born in 1900. When you are 14, World War I starts, and ends on your 18th birthday with 22 million people killed. Later in the year, a Spanish Flu epidemic hits the planet and runs until you are 20. Fifty million people die from it in those two years. Yes, 50 million. When you are 29, the Great Depression begins. Unemployment hits 25%, global GDP drops 27%. That runs until you are 33. The country nearly collapses along with the world economy. When you turn 39, World War II starts. You are not even over the hill yet. When you are 41, the United States is fully pulled into WWII. Between your 39th and 45th birthday, 75 million people perish in the war and the Holocaust kills six million. At 52, the Korean War starts and five million perish.

At 64, the Vietnam War begins, and it does not end for many years. Four million people die in that conflict. Approaching your 62nd birthday, you have the Cuban Missile Crisis, a tipping point in the Cold War. Life on our planet, as we know it, could well have ended. Great leaders prevented that from happening.

As you turn 75, the Vietnam War finally ends. Think of everyone on the planet born in 1900. How do you survive all of that? A kid in 1985 did not think their 85 year old grandparent understood how hard school was. Yet those grandparents (and now great grandparents) survived through everything listed above. Perspective is an amazing art. Let us try to keep things in perspective. Let's be smart, help each other out, and we will get through this. In the history of the world, there has never been a storm that lasted. This too, shall pass.

