



Lowell Joint SCHOOL DISTRICT

“Home of Scholars and Champions”



Healthy Families and Staff Newsletter (Update #17)

Lowell Joint **STRONG**



September 4, 2020

Thank you for all that you do! We deeply appreciate our families as we work together through this challenging time. Please remember to keep taking a deep breathe, stand in faith, and know that we will exceed in spite of the challenges that come our way = GRIT; we are LOWELL JOINT **STRONG**. Thank you to all of our parents for your grace, mercy, and support. **You are amazing!!**

As we have shared previously, everything continues to change every 2-4 days. As I am sure you are aware, Governor Newsom unveiled a new blueprint on August 28, 2020 for the reopening of the business sectors and schools. This completely alters the previous Watch List, which we shared just two weeks ago. This new blueprint converts California to a color-coded, tiered system that will use two metrics to measure the corona virus: spread rate and test positivity percentage. The tiers are designated by four colors: purple (widespread), red (substantial), orange (moderate) and yellow (minimal with the lowest restrictions). Los Angeles and Orange County is currently in a purple tier. Counties must remain at each tier for a minimum of 21 days and then maintain the tier requirements of the next level for 14 days before altering the restrictions for school openings. The State’s new website will track the metrics, show an interactive map and list business sectors open by each county. The following link can be used to access the State’s new website: COVID19.CA.GOV or at <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/COVID19CountyMonitoringOverview.aspx>.

As we shared in the last Healthy Family Newsletter, **Los Angeles County Public Health is not able to give us a projected date and even though we certainly hope it is sooner rather than later, we would not anticipate returning sooner than the middle of October.** We will continue to monitor all of the data and County Public Health notices. We would anticipate resuming in a Hybrid model within a week once Los Angeles County Public Health Department deems it safe to return, which allows staff to make sure their classrooms are ready to welcome our students back. The health and safety of our students and staff is our priority and we will follow the directives of Los Angeles County Public Health Department as we take each step forward.

Here are a few general updates and reminders:

- We want to encourage everyone to be an active member of our community, state, and country by making sure your voice is heard – vote. You can register to vote and make sure you are heard at <https://www.vote.ca.gov>.
- Did you know that in the 2010 Census, approximately 5 percent of the children under five weren’t counted? About 1 million littles nationwide. Census 2020 is quickly approaching, and we need to make sure that everyone in the Lowell Joint School District boundaries are counted, especially young children. California has the highest rate in the entire country in that age percentile. Let’s make sure that every child is counted. Future funding for our schools is based on our children that are ages 0-5. It’s Easy! **ONLINE**: visit the Census website and fill out the survey online

www.2020census.gov

- We are in the process of gathering stakeholder input for the Learning Continuity Attendance Plan. We have met with representatives from both staff and parents and anyone interested in providing additional input for the plan regarding In-Person Instructional Offerings, the Distance Learning Program, Pupil Learning Loss, Mental Health and Social and Emotional Well-being, Professional Development, Pupil Engagement and Outreach, and School Nutrition. You are encouraged to email smcdonald@ljsd.org.



- Our Strategic Planning Team continues to plan our next steps toward our return as we follow our **Return to School Adaptable Plan Continuum**. As we continue to prepare for our ultimate return to a Hybrid in-person instructional model, in the next two weeks we are also circling back around to prepare for those families who will need/want to continue with a 100% virtual/distance learning model = Virtual Academy. We know that this decision is very important and very personal; therefore, we will be resurveying all of our families so that no one is left out of the process. Again you should anticipate a completely separate email/communication in the next two weeks; please be on a look out.
- As you are aware, we have been able to establish a partnership with Saddleback church to provide a Pop-Up Grocery Distribution at least once month. It will be the first Friday of each month. Today, September 4th was our first Pop-Up Distribution and it was incredible. Each family received over 40 lbs. of free food: dry goods, fresh produce, fresh dairy, and frozen meat. Again, it will be the first Friday of each month from 9-11 am at Rancho-Starbuck. Thank you Saddleback church.
- We are also excited to let all of our families know that the State and Federal government reapproved the authorization for our Nutrition Services to continue to provide lunches to anyone from 1-18yrs old. You simply need to drive up to any of our six campuses Monday-Friday between the hours of 11 am-1 pm. No paperwork, no mess, simply come on by and Grab-n-Go.
- We do want to remind families that while we are working hard to use Zoom, Google Classroom, Streaming, etc. to stay connected with you and your child, we absolutely must make sure that we work together on proper conduct as it relates to pictures and videotaping. We must maintain students and staff personal legal rights and confidentiality. This is one of those very slipper slopes that we must stay away from and we greatly appreciate your help and support. Please make sure no one ever takes pictures and/or video tapes classes. Thank you.
- The entire Lowell Joint Family is working so hard, are overcoming 100's of challenges, and most importantly lovingly caring for our precious students. You are to be commended; please remember to give each other and yourself a healthy dose of grace and mercy.
- We will continue to update everyone bi-monthly, or sooner if needed, so that we work to keep everyone informed and updated on our "road-map", but please remember that they keep changing our map☺.

Please remember that so many things are out of our control these days, yet we know it is our family and the school family that helps bring stability. Thank you for taking the time to listen, take walks, and give your children/our students the extra hug and say "I love you". Grace and mercy seem to be in short supply these days, but is exactly what our students, our staff, and we ourselves need. LJSD is called to speak life into our students, staff, and families; please help us speak life into each other. Your continued strength, compassion, and resilience are an incredible testimony to the shared dedication and commitment of our students, staff, parents, and community; **THANK YOU – WE ARE BLESSED!**

LOWELL JOINT STRONG!!