



Thank you

Santa Clara County
Office of Education

Weekly Round-Up

COVID-19
November 4, 2020

National Gratitude
Month

Equity - Diversity - Inclusion - Partnership

Message from the County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Dewan

Greetings everyone,

There are several cultural celebrations, contributions, and recognitions that make November incredibly special to us all. The month of November is designated as National Native American Heritage Month, a time to honor the history and heroic efforts of people indigenous to this land while celebrating their legacy, heritage, and culture. Today is National Stress Awareness Day, and Sunday is National Parents as Teachers Day. I would like to thank parents, grandparents, and caregivers who are taking on additional responsibilities as classroom teachers. Coming together as a community, even with distance between us, is what is allowing us to forge on during these history-making times.



November is also National Gratitude Month. Those who regularly practice gratitude lead healthier and happier lives with less stress. Three simple ways to practice gratitude and relieve stress are:

1. Notice good things, look for them, appreciate them, and pay attention to the little and positive things all around us.
2. Do a kindness or pay one forward and notice how you feel afterward.

3. Express your gratitude; keep a gratitude journal, thank someone or let them know what they mean to you.

Periodic COVID-19 testing and [getting a flu shot](#) are key components in reducing the risk of spreading influenza and the coronavirus. Other key factors in minimizing the spread of COVID-19 and other germs include washing our hands with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds; properly wearing a face covering; frequently wiping down and disinfecting high touch areas at home and work, including our personal cell phones; and maintaining a physical distance of at least six feet from others.

We have been engaged in safety measures for many months now and it may be tempting to lessen our vigilance in the fight against the spread of COVID-19 as more businesses and activities become available to us. Together, we must continue to be vigilant. It is advised to keep as many activities outdoors as possible and to conduct non-essential and optional activities from home when we can to reduce the number of times we interact with others.

In closing, thank you for your efforts in keeping each other and our community safe and healthy. Working together and being there for one another is how we will continue to stay stronger together.

Be well,
Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools

Public Health Updates

Santa Clara County Office of Education COVID-19 Testing for Educators and Staff

We are pleased to announce free COVID-19 testing for Santa Clara County educators and staff is returning to the Ridder Park campus. Testing will occur in the San Jose Room from 12 - 6 p.m. on the following dates:

- Friday, November 13
- Friday, November 20
- Tuesday, November 24
- Tuesday, December 1

It is recommended that educators and staff who have frequent interaction with the public do a COVID-19 test at least once a month. This type of COVID-19 test is a gentle and non-invasive nasal swabbing. The test is free regardless of insurance status. Insurance information will be requested but is not required, and co-pays will not be billed.



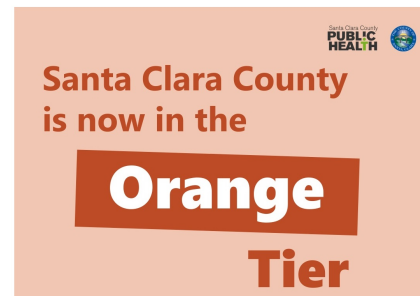
The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) [Stronger Together public service announcements \(PSAs\) series](#) highlights actions everyone can take to further prevent the spread of the virus. The videos, and their useful information, will be added regularly. So, be sure to check back often.



Blueprint for a Safer Economy

The County of Santa Clara's [Revised Risk Reduction Order](#), associated with the Orange Tier, went into effect on October 13. While several additional activities and business operations have been able to resume, the Orange Tier **does not mean** that the Public Health Officer considers all open activities to be safe.

COVID-19 continues to pose a severe risk to residents of Santa Clara County; residents are urged to be vigilant and maintain risk-reducing precautions, such as physical distancing and wearing face coverings properly. [Click here](#) for specific details.



COVID-19 Testing, Safe, Quick, and Easy!

As winter quickly approaches, there is no time like the present to get tested for COVID-19!

SCCPHD offers free testing in each city in Santa Clara County one to two weekdays per month. The sites are appointment-based, allowing for a fast testing experience. The County Fairgrounds site offers large capacity appointment-based

drive-through testing and is open on Saturdays. Details for each testing site and upcoming testing dates can be found at [SCCFreeTest.org](https://www.sccphd.org/SCCFreeTest.org).

The Santa Clara County Public Health Department (SCCPHD) recommends that educators and other school staff who are working on-site, and have frequent interactions with students or the public, take a COVID-19 test and have the results prior to returning to the site. Educators and other school staff are also encouraged to participate in surveillance testing at a cadence of at least once a month. Testing can be accessed through one's healthcare facilities for more information click [here](#). Symptom-free essential workers who are unable to receive testing from their healthcare provider can inform the SCCPHD by visiting [sccCOVIDconcerns.org](https://www.sccphd.org/sccCOVIDconcerns.org).

This post was reviewed by the PHD Emergency Operations Center.

Flu Shot Clinic

Flu shots are even more important this year with COVID-19 also circulating widely in Santa Clara County. Everyone 6 months and older needs a flu shot each year, and now is the time to get yours. Get your flu shot right away to prevent catching the flu and spreading it to teachers, classmates, coworkers, family members, and people in your household.

The Santa Clara County Public Health Department offers many opportunities; no appointment or health insurance is needed. There are no fees. Everyone is welcome regardless of immigration status or where you live.

Featured Location:

Santa Clara County Fairgrounds:
Car entrance for general parking
Gate D
2542 Monterey Road, San Jose, CA 95111
Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Shots available at this location for everyone 3 years and older. Children age 3-17 must be accompanied by a guardian. Children between six (6) months and three (3) years old should get the flu vaccine and other scheduled vaccinations through a health care provider.

More information and other locations for free flu shots: English [sccphd.org/flu](https://www.sccphd.org/flu), Spanish [sccphd.org/flu-es](https://www.sccphd.org/flu-es), Vietnamese [sccphd.org/flu-vi](https://www.sccphd.org/flu-vi), or telephone 2-1-1.



Resources for Schools and Districts

School Safety Plan Webinar

While school safety may be foremost on the minds of many of us as more and

more students and staff head back to the school site or office, we must remember that it is not just an important priority now. School safety planning includes a vast team of stakeholders from the school, families, and the community. To support these efforts within the county, the School Climate, Leadership and Instructional Services Department is hosting a **school safety planning webinar** on November 17, from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. If you are responsible for developing or implementing a school safety plan, please sign up for this webinar and share the [informational flyer](#) with your colleagues.



Be sure to visit the SCCOE's [The Stronger Together website](#) for the latest information as it becomes available. Resources are available for districts, school sites, and the greater community.

Resources for Families

Walden West Nature Nuggets & Virtual Learning

Walden West is now hosting virtual learning across a variety of social media platforms!

The Walden West staff invites you to engage in Nature Nuggets, which are our science-based lessons for being out in nature as well as being at home. Videos and images are based on curriculum, plus they will have other outdoor school and summer camp content that is just fun to share



For more information, click [here](#).

Trot, Walk or Run at the Silicon Valley Turkey Trot Race 2020

Are you looking for ways to support the community while staying healthy during the upcoming holiday season? A great way to do both is by joining a long-time Thanksgiving tradition in San Jose, the [Silicon Valley Turkey Trot](#) race. A fun run, or foot race, the Turkey Trot is held each year and encourages activity before

indulging in Thanksgiving Day feasts. Even with the race's slightly different look, the mission is the same and it will continue to raise funds to support Silicon Valley families in need. To register, click [here](#).



Bay Area Tutoring Association is pleased to announce the **COVID-19 Black Lives Matter Online Tutoring Pod Program Pilot**. The online, six-week-long pilot program will begin on November 9 and consist of 80 students from grades 1-12 of African ancestry whose parents are in the healthcare field, essential workers, civil servants, and teachers. Students will have round-the-clock access to support for homework, college readiness, cultural enrichment, and other activities from tutors from HBCU's, Stanford, SJSU, and other regional partners. For more information click [here](#).

City of San José Child Care Scholarship Program

FIRST 5 Santa Clara County and the City of San José are proud to announce the release of the **City of San Jose Child Care Scholarship Program Application** for families. This program will provide up to 40 scholarship opportunities to families who meet the following criteria:

- were affected by COVID-19;
- meet the income eligibility requirements that would qualify them as a “gap-family” according to the Housing Urban Development (HUD) ;
- have a child under the age of six who is in need of high-quality childcare; and

- resides in the City of San José.

For more information on this program click [here](#).



Announcements



No announcements for this week; please check back with us next week.

About the Santa Clara County Office of Education

Working collaboratively with school and community partners, the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) is a regional service agency that provides instructional, business, and technology services to the 31 school districts of Santa Clara County. The County Office of Education directly serves students through special education programs, alternative schools, Head Start and State Preschool programs, migrant education, and Opportunity Youth Academy. The SCCOE also provides academic and fiscal oversight and monitoring to districts in addition to the 22 Santa Clara County Board of Education authorized charter schools.



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