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# Message from the County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Dewan

## Greetings everyone,

As the number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise, it is imperative that now, more than ever, we remain diligent in our efforts to keep ourselves and others safe and healthy. Knowing that we are stronger together, let us focus our collective efforts on ways in which we can manage our health and wellness. Leisure and non-essential travel is temporarily restricted statewide and is strongly discouraged. Flu shots are strongly encouraged. CA Notify is a new opt-in app on both Android and Apple devices that helps determine contacts between confirmed COVID-19 positive



individuals and others. The app alerts users to potential exposure without storing or transmitting any data related to their identity or location. Additionally, it is essential that we continue to wear proper face coverings, wash our hands frequently, minimize activity outside our homes, maintain more than 6 feet distance from those outside our households, stay home if experiencing <u>any COVID-19 symptoms</u>, and get regularly <u>tested</u>.

While this time of year can preoccupy us with the holiday and end of the year todo lists, it is essential to pause and reflect on the important role each of us plays in keeping ourselves, our friends and our families safe. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my deepest gratitude to the Santa Clara County community for its unwavering commitment and patience during these challenging times. We are stronger together.

Be well,

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

# **Public Health Updates**

**Outdoor and Indoor Youth and Recreational Adult Sports** 



From the California Public Health
Department (on 12/14/20) came general
guidance for youth and adult sports
participants, coaches, and support staff. The
information provided includes a nonexhaustive list of examples of sports with
different levels of contact so that the level of
risk and appropriate Tier can be assessed for
other sports.

**Low-Contact Sports:** Individual or small group sports where contact within six feet of other participants can be avoided. Some of these sports have relatively low exertion rates that allow for consistent wearing of face coverings when within six feet of other people.

**Moderate-Contact Sports:** Team sports that can be played with only incidental or intermittent close contact between participants.

**High-Contact Sports:** Team sports with frequent or sustained close contact (and in many cases, face-to-face contact) between participants and high probability that respiratory particles will be transmitted between participants. Indoor sports are higher risk than outdoor sports due to reduced ventilation.



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

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

The Santa Clara County Public Health Department (PHD) 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 routine testing at a cadence of at least once a month. Testing can be accessed through one's healthcare facilities - for more information click <a href="here">here</a>. Symptom-free essential workers who are unable to receive testing from their healthcare provider can inform the PHD by visiting <a href="mailto:sccCOVIDconcerns.org">sccCOVIDconcerns.org</a>.

The PHD 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 <a href="SCCFreeTest.org">SCCFreeTest.org</a>.

<sup>\*</sup>This post was reviewed by the PHD Emergency Operations Center.\*

## **Resources for Schools and Districts**

## SANTA CLARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION



An induction ceremony was held on Wednesday, December 16, for the Santa Clara County Board of Education's Trustees. Newly elected board member, Victoria Chon, will represent Area 5, which includes the majority portion of Santa Clara Unified, Milpitas Unified, Orchard, Berryessa Union and the corresponding portion of East Side Union High School District. Re-elected members, Joseph Di Salvo, Rosemary Kamei, and Grace H. Mah took oath for another term, as well

During the Board Meeting that followed, Claudia Rossi, who was elected to the board in 2014, was voted in as President for a second term by the Trustees. Board Vice-President, Kathleen King, was also voted in for a consecutive term.

The first board meeting of 2021 will be held on January 13.

# The ArtsEdConnect Program

SVCreates ArtsEdConnect 2020 grants are now accepting applications. Santa Clara County educators can apply for the ArtsEdConnect program grants to support and encourage arts education in schools.

Grants can be used for arts-related materials for education, including but not limited to performances, virtual museum visits, and artist interactions.

The application deadline is January 4, 2021. Grant recipients can use funding through December 2021.

To apply click here.



# **Stronger Together**



Be sure to visit the SCCOE's, <u>Stronger Together</u> <u>website</u> for the latest information as it becomes available for districts, school sites, and the greater community.

Districts are encouraged to check out the latest resource posted; its purpose is to <u>guide</u> in planning for in-person instruction.

#### **Resources for Families**

# by re-imagining old traditions in a new way!



# **Healthy and Safe Celebrations - COVID-19 Style**

Looking for something to post, to remind friends and neighbors to celebrate safely, during the holidays? Feel free to download the graphic shown here! Click the link below the picture.



Click to download "Holiday Physical Distancing"

## **Reduce the Spread of COVID-19**

It is crucial for everyone to do their part in reducing the spread of COVID-19 and continue to practice physical distancing, wearing proper <u>face coverings</u>, and to frequently wash hands.



#### **Announcements**



Please note our Ridder Park office will be closed on the following dates:

- December 24, 25, and 31
- January 1, 2021

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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