



Santa Clara County
Office of Education

Veterans Day

November 11

Weekly Round-Up

COVID-19
November 11, 2020

Equity - Diversity - Inclusion - Partnership

Message from the County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Dewan

Greetings everyone,

As we continue to practice gratitude this month and in observance of Veterans Day on Wednesday, November 11, please join me in acknowledging and thanking all who have served or are currently serving in a branch of our military.

This week also brings us World Kindness Day - an opportunity to practice [random acts of kindness](#) - on Friday, November 13. In addition, Diwali, the ancient Hindu festival of lights, will be celebrated on Saturday, November 14th. This ancient festival represents the eternal triumph of light over darkness or the victory of good over evil.

Last week, we discussed that as a county we are currently in the Orange, or Moderate Tier, in the [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#). This tier is focused on [risk reduction](#) and has allowed for more businesses and activities to reopen. It is important to note that while more is available to us in this tier, it doesn't mean we can relax our efforts to stop the spread of the virus. We must remain diligent in the proper wearing of face coverings, frequent hand washing, maintaining a physical distance of more than 6 feet from others, and remembering that outdoor activities are safer than indoor. In reducing the risk of spreading the coronavirus and influenza, it is also vital to be routinely tested for COVID-19 and [get a flu shot](#).



Earlier this week, the Bay Area Health Officers released [recommendations for safer holidays and travel](#). The joint recommendations advise the public that if you gather in person, it is best to keep it small, short, stable, and outdoors. Also, nonessential travel, including holiday travel, is not recommended. Travel outside the Bay Area will increase your chance of getting infected and spreading the virus to others after your return. For those who are traveling, there are tips to help avoid catching COVID-19 or spreading it to fellow travelers. If you travel outside the Bay Area, it is strongly recommended that you self-quarantine for 14 days after your return if your activities while traveling put you at a higher risk of getting COVID-19.

In closing, I am grateful to have the opportunity to be able to serve our community, thank you.

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



For educators and staff who have frequent interaction with the public, testing at least once a month is recommended. 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.

Stronger Together PSA Series

The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) [Stronger Together public service announcements \(PSAs\) series](#) is available for your viewing. The videos, and their useful information, highlight actions everyone can take to prevent possible spread of the virus. Check out the latest video, [Protect Yourself from COVID-19](#); it's a timely addition as winter approaches.



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

Don't forget to get your flu shot to prevent you from becoming ill and spreading it to teachers, classmates, coworkers, family members, and people in your household. Shots available for everyone 3 years and older. Children between six (6) months and three (3) years old should get the flu vaccine and other scheduled vaccinations through a health care provider. Children age 3 -17 must be accompanied by a guardian.

More information and other locations for free flu shots: English sccphd.org/flu, Spanish sccphd.org/flu-es, Vietnamese 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 community is invited to engage in Nature Nuggets, science-based lessons for being outside in nature as well as being inside at home. Videos and images are based on NGSS, and connect to other outdoor relatable school and camp content.



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 José 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



The SCCOE, it's schools, and programs are closed November 11, in observance of Veterans Day.

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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