



Santa Clara County
Office of Education

Weekly Round-Up

COVID-19
December 3, 2020

Equity - Diversity - Inclusion - Partnership

Message from the County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Dewan

Greetings everyone,

As we transition into a new week, and enter into the season of giving, it is a great time to reflect upon, or create new traditions. Equally important is maintaining a focus on the well-being of ourselves and our loved ones. As occasions for celebrations approach, it is vital to keep safety top of mind. It is crucial for everyone to do their part to reduce the spread of COVID-19 by continuing to practice physical distancing, wearing proper [face coverings](#), avoiding gatherings with those outside your household, frequently washing hands, and getting routinely tested.



On November 28, the Santa Clara County Health Officer reported the number of Santa Clara County residents contracting COVID-19 and the number of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 is continuing to rise significantly, reaching record levels. Therefore, the [Health Officer announced](#) several changes to the Mandatory Directives that accompany the Public Health Officer's Risk Reduction Order. The revised and new [Mandatory Directives](#) went into effect Monday, November 30 at 12:01 a.m., and will remain in effect until at least December 21 at 5:00 a.m., unless they are extended. Santa Clara County remains in the Purple (or "Widespread Tier") as defined in the [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#). Changes to the Mandatory Directives increase safety, including but not limited to, reducing the number of persons allowed inside facilities at any one time, reducing the size of outdoor gatherings, and temporarily prohibiting certain higher risk activities. The Health Officer issued a Mandatory Directive on Travel, which strongly discourages leisure and non-essential travel, and requires persons entering the county to quarantine for 14 days upon return from travel of **more than 150 miles from the county's borders**. It is strongly encouraged to follow up with your employer for further details on this directive.

Our dedication to keeping one another healthy and safe must remain our number one priority, and I encourage continued unity as we strive to meet the challenges of this pandemic. Remember, we are stronger together.

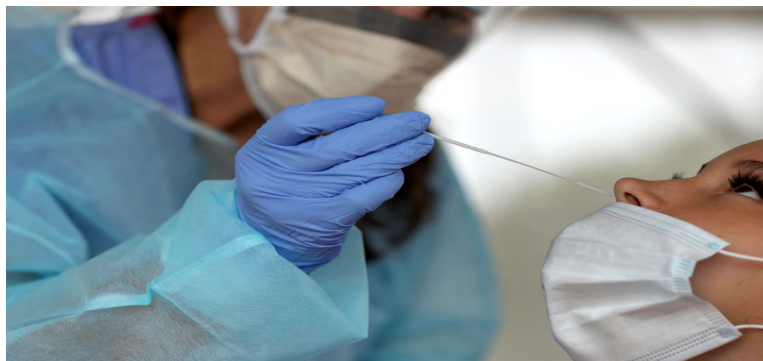
Be well,

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

Public Health Updates

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. Make sure to check out our videos such as [Physical Distancing](#) and [Facts About Routine Testing](#) and please share them with family and friends; 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.

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 [here](#). Symptom-free essential workers who are unable to receive testing from their healthcare provider can inform the PHD by visiting sccCOVIDconcerns.org.

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 SCCFreeTest.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.



This post was provided by the PHD Emergency Operations Center

Resources for Schools and Districts

De Anza College Planetarium Virtual Field Trip

The De Anza College Planetarium is pleased to announce brand-new [virtual field trips](#), with six program options developed around grade-appropriate Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), created for students in grades K-8. Topics include:

- observation and explanation of the motion and cycles of the Sun, Moon, and stars;
- moon phases;
- constellations;
- reasons for the seasons;
- climate change; and
- gravity.

Open-source software Stellarium is used to simulate the sky and sky motions as seen from Earth, as well as the proprietary DigitalSky2 software from Sky-Skan, Inc. to observe planets in space and to get different views of our Solar System and beyond!

To access an informational video, [click here](#). Visit the De Anza College Planetarium [website](#) to sign up today!

*Post provided by The De Anza College Planetarium



The SCCOE's [The Stronger Together website](#) and its resources are available for districts, school sites, and the greater community. Check back for regular updates.

Resources for Families

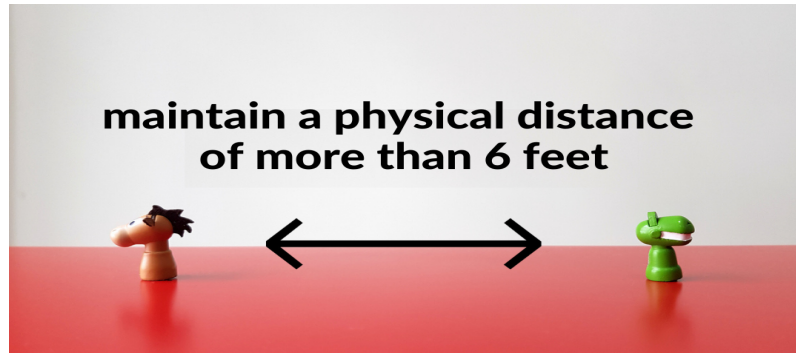
Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) is commemorating its 45th annual celebration

On December 2, the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) is commemorating its 45th annual celebration. Thank you to those in special education; your commitment to offering an excellent education to our students with disabilities is commendable.



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 [face coverings](#), and to frequently wash hands.



Fantasy of Lights

Announced on November 23, to comply with the recently issued 10:00 p.m. curfew mandate, Santa Clara County Parks will be closing the fantasy of lights entrance gates at 9:00 p.m. The curfew ensures visitors arriving before 9:00 p.m. will have adequate time to enjoy the lights, then exit by the 10:00 p.m. curfew. All ticket sales for 8:30-9:00 p.m., and oversized vehicles have been stopped. Current 9 p.m. ticket holders will be refunded and may buy tickets at any available time slot.

For more information, contact: parkinfo@prk.sccgov.org.



Alliance for Girls Survey

In order to identify and respond to the unique impact of COVID-19 on girls*, Alliance for Girls (AFG), the nation's largest alliance of girl-serving organizations, is working under the leadership of its youth participatory action research team from Oakland and San Francisco on a statewide effort to ensure girls are not left behind during this crisis. We are asking that girls in California up to age 24 respond to a short, confidential [five-minute survey](#). Survey responses will be used to inform Alliance for Girls' work of improving services available to girls and advocating for girls, with a focus on COVID-19. All survey participants will be entered in a raffle with a chance to win a \$50 gift card to Target; there will be multiple winners.

If you have any questions about the survey, please reach out to Livier Gutierrez (livier@alliance4girls.org) or Nakia Dillard (nakia@alliance4girls.org).

**The term "Girls" refers to gender-expansive youth (cis girls, trans girls, non-binary youth, gender non-conforming youth, gender queer youth, and any girl-identified youth).*



This post was provided by the Alliance for Girls (AFG)

It is critical to pay attention to the needs of our most vulnerable youth. We cannot allow girls to get left behind in this crisis.

HELP US IDENTIFY THE NEEDS OF GIRLS DURING COVID-19.

TAKE OUR SURVEY FOR GIRLS AND GENDER EXPANSIVE YOUTH UP TO AGE 24 IN CA.

TEXT FORGIRLS TO 77-948 TO GET THE SURVEY AND ENTER A RAFFLE FOR A \$50 GIFT CARD.



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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