



# Superintendent's UPDATE

Thursday, December 2, 2021

## COVID-19 Vaccination Update

Hello San Mateo County Education and Child Care Community,

As we've seen throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the virus is everchanging and persistent. As we all wait for health experts to develop a better understanding of the [Omicron variant](#), we in the school community already know what we need to do: get vaccinated, stay home when you're not feeling well, get tested, wear a mask, and be careful about crowds, gatherings, and travel.

### Testing

The word out of Washington today was [testing](#) – free at-home tests and new testing requirements for international travelers. According to President Biden, "The bottom line is this winter, you'll be able to test for free in the comfort of your home and have some peace of mind." Free at-home tests should be available next month.

Thankfully, we in California schools already have a robust testing system in place. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has provided free testing services to public and private schools across the state. These include PCR, antigen, and pooled testing and now, through a pilot program, at-home testing as well. San Mateo County schools have taken advantage of this important safety measure and have made testing part of their regular routines, especially around the holidays. To learn more about the CDPH's testing programs, visit the agency's [school testing website](#).

### Vaccinations Continue

Increasing the vaccination rate of youth ages 5-18 is a priority of the San Mateo County Office of Education, schools, and our many partners. Currently, 35.9 percent of children ages 5-11 have received a first dose of vaccine. A big thank you to Safeway, which vaccinated 5,750 children ages 5-11 at its school-based clinics in November. While you may not be able to easily find a same-day appointment, vaccination options for children abound. As always, be sure to check these sites: [San Mateo County Health](#), [MyTurn](#), [Stanford Health](#), and [Kaiser Permanente](#), as well as many pharmacies and community centers in the county.

### **School-Based Vaccination Clinics**

Building on the success of the November school-based clinics, the San Mateo County Office of Education is working with the San Mateo County Emergency Operations Center to organize 11 first-dose clinics (and 11 second-dose clinics) at school sites in the county in December and January. These school sites were selected because of their location in communities serving students from families with limited financial resources. One of the greatest hurdles to expanding vaccination clinics is the shortage of skilled staff to provide the injections. To help address this challenge, the San Mateo County Office of Education is organizing a large group of school nurses who will take on this role at the school-based clinics. Who better to serve our children as they receive a vaccination than those critical school staff members who dedicate their days to looking after the health of our counties' children? A big thank you to San Mateo County Office of Education Health and Wellness Coordinator Jill Vandroff and all of the school nurses for making this happen.

### **Boosters for All Adults**

Our various health agencies are urging [all eligible adults](#) to receive a COVID-19 booster shot as soon as possible. The County offers a [free booster clinic](#) at the San Mateo County Event Center, 1346 Saratoga Drive, San Mateo. For those who have not yet received the COVID-19 vaccine, first and second doses are also available at the Event Center. Appointments are required. To make an appointment, visit the [MyTurn site](#).

Stay well and thank you for all you do to keep our children and communities safe.



Nancy Magee  
San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools

Please note: A copy of this letter in Spanish will be [posted here](#) shortly.