



Superintendent's UPDATE

Thursday, March 23, 2022

COVID-19 School and Vaccination Update

Dear San Mateo County Education and Child Care Community,

As we continue to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is good to take stock of where we've been and acknowledge all we have learned. Two years ago, we were sheltering in place; a year ago, vaccinations were creating hope; and in January, we were in the throes of the Omicron surge where schools and child care settings faced unprecedented numbers of COVID-19 cases. Today, schools are planning in-person events and cautiously looking forward to a safe return to school after spring break.

Although the rollercoaster of the past two years has been challenging for our students and staff, our school leaders report that students have also developed resiliency and critical thinking skills. This was on display over the last two weeks as many students have chosen to continue wearing and advocating for masks as they are determined to keep COVID-19 from derailing treasured spring events and traditions, including school proms, concerts, graduations, and other end-of-the-year events. Their self-agency is yet another lifelong skill our young people have gained.

As for vaccinations, we await expected news that our youngest learners – children ages six months to four years old – will be eligible for vaccines shortly. Vaccinations for this age group will make it easier for families with young children to participate more fully and comfortably out in their communities. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is looking for partners to host pop-up clinics for at least 100 people, so if your school or child care site is interested, please contact the CDPH School Vaccination Team at SchoolVaxTeam@cdph.ca.gov to sign up.

As of this week, 61.1 percent of children ages 5-11 have received two doses of vaccine, up from 60.7 percent last week. The vaccination rate for youth ages 12-15 was up very slightly to 82.3 percent. The booster rate for this age group climbed from 39.6 to 40.2 percent. Vaccination opportunities abound, including weekly clinics in South San Francisco, Daly City, San Mateo, Half Moon Bay, Redwood City, and East Palo Alto. More information can be found on the [SMC Health website](#).

As schools begin to move into spring break, I will pause this newsletter for the next few weeks unless we run into any breaking news. In the meantime, let's get those vaccination and booster rates up for all of our county's residents!

Thank you all for your work to support our students and schools.



Nancy Magee
San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools

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