



Superintendent's UPDATE

Thursday, March 18

Vaccination and Returning to Campus Update

Hello San Mateo education and child care community,

As more and more school workers receive their first dose of vaccine, we are fielding a lot of questions about the second dose vaccine. If you were vaccinated in the February 24-26 clinics at the San Mateo County Event Center, you should have received an invitation to schedule your second appointment. The second dose clinics will be held March 23, 24, and 25 at the Event Center.

If you have not received an invitation, please be sure to check the email address/es and phone number/s you included on your initial registration. If you are still having trouble, contact vaccine-sm-support@carbonhealth.com or call 888-762-8229 or reach out to your school, district, or childcare leader for support. If you received your dose after February 26th, you should have received an appointment when you received your first dose. Again, if you haven't, please reach out to the organization that provided your first dose.

If you are still considering whether to receive a vaccine, please know there are many benefits to vaccination. COVID-19 vaccines are meant to significantly reduce the chances of getting COVID-19, or in the event one does become infected, the vaccine prevents against serious illness, hospitalization, and death. The CDC recommends that even those who have been infected with COVID-19 in the past and recovered should get vaccinated. Read more [here](#) from the County of San Mateo COVID-19 Vaccines: Frequently Asked Questions.

In addition to vaccinations, we all received good news this week – San Mateo County has entered the Orange Tier of the State's [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#). While this move does not have much of an impact on school reopening requirements, it does make everyone feel more confident about heading back to school and work. San Mateo is one of only a few counties that have reached this milestone. I'd like to offer up well-deserved shout outs to our public health officials who have helped us navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic with great skill and patience and to our county residents who have worked hard to follow the rules. We are all the beneficiaries of this success, but especially our children! Thank you.

At the County Office of Education, we are inspired to see more and more schools return students to campus for in-person learning opportunities. The following data provide a snapshot of where our county stands in regards to school reopenings.

141 Schools Currently Conducting Some In-Person Learning

- Private: 69.6% (64/92)
- Public: 45.7% (80/175, 13 school districts, plus SMCOE student programs)
- Charter: 21.4% (3/14)
- Total: 52.3% (147/281)

Currently Conducting Some In-Person Learning: 13 Districts + SMCOE (Total of 80 Schools)

- Burlingame School District
- Hillsborough City School District
- La Honda-Pescadero Unified School District (TK-5 Only)
- Las Lomas Elementary School District
- Millbrae School District
- Menlo Park City School District
- Portola Valley School District
- Redwood City School District
- San Carlos School District
- San Bruno Park School District (6-8 starts 3/22)
- San Mateo County Office of Education
- San Mateo-Foster City School District
- San Mateo Union High School District
- Woodside Elementary School District

Plan to Conduct In-Person Learning by April 1: 2 Districts (Total of 8 Schools)

- Bayshore Elementary School District (3/22)
- Belmont-Redwood Shores School District (3/22)

Plans Approved to Conduct In-Person Learning after April 1: 5 Districts (Total of 32 Schools)

- Cabrillo Unified School District (4/5)
- Brisbane School District (4/12)
- Ravenswood City School District (Pilot Program at Costaño begins 4/12)
- South San Francisco Unified School District (4/19)
- Jefferson Elementary School District (Yellow Tier)

With all of this great news around vaccinations and the Orange Tier, it is tempting to say, “let’s change the rules and get all students back fulltime right now.” However, we didn’t get to the Orange Tier or achieve an amazing record of little to no transmission of COVID-19 in schools because we acted rashly. We are where we are today **because** we followed an incremental approach, pivoted when it was necessary, and followed the science. The [Four Pillars](#) are more important in our school routines than ever as more students and staff get back on campus and we build on today’s success.

We continue to work closely with San Mateo County Health and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), especially in updating and aligning our local protocols. Just this week, CDPH released its first guidance document that opens the door to modified [school graduations](#). With patience, resilience, adherence to the Four Pillars, and all of your support, we look forward to further expanding options in

the summer and the fall. For today, we remain grateful for our county's vaccination effort for our education workforce and for the ongoing daily and heroic efforts of our school leaders, classroom teachers, and district staff who are working around the clock to educate our students and move us forward into an in-person future.

Wishing you all a good week.



Nancy Magee
San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools