



#### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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#### **SUPERINTENDENT**

Jodee Brentlinger

August 27, 2021

Dear Solana Beach School District Families,

As I shared in my Wednesday, August 25, 2021, letter to families, the Board of Education met yesterday to receive information regarding SBSD's English Language Learners program and to discuss the 2021-22 school year. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the meeting, and for all 38 of the thoughtful and informative comments we received prior to addressing the 2021-22 School Year agenda item, as well those received before the meeting through emails and phone calls.

We were fortunate to have Bob Mueller, Assistant Incident Commander, COVID-19 Response, San Diego County Office of Education, to speak regarding the San Diego County Department of Public Health (SDCDPH) requirements; and Dr. John Bradley, Medical Director, Infectious Diseases, Rady Children's Hospital, to share his expertise on the current transmission of the delta variant in our community. They provided clarity and background to the what and the why behind the County Public Health Department's (CDPH) requirements, recommendations, and guidance. Both presentations will be available on the District's website.

The 2021-22 School Year planning and implementation are founded on two guiding principles:

1. Maintaining the health and safety of students and staff
2. Keeping our schools open and our students in class whenever possible

Please read below for the direction staff received from the Board of Education regarding changes to the District's current 2021-22 Health and Safety measures.

#### **Facial Coverings (Masks)**

While there is no evidence of any transmission at our schools, unfortunately, there have been incidents of students testing positive for COVID-19 through community transmission since school reopened on August 16. CDPH requires students who have been in close contact (being within 6 feet of someone who has COVID-19 for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) while not wearing a facial covering, indoors or outdoors, stay home for either the Return on Day 8 or Return on Day 11 quarantine periods. There is a Modified Quarantine\* option that is available but requires students either maintain 6' of physical distance or be masked if within 0-6 feet for 15 minutes or more.

Currently, students and staff are required to wear an appropriate face covering when indoors at school (no bandanas or gators) and have had the option to wear masks when outdoors. Beginning Monday, August 30, 2021, all students, staff, parents, guardians, and visitors are required to wear facial coverings at school, both indoors and outdoors. This decision maximizes the number of students eligible to participate in a Modified Quarantine\* process.

The Board acknowledges the necessity to provide students with additional outdoor masking break opportunities and these will be built into the daily schedule. In addition, PE activities will also provide additional opportunities as activities planned will be 6' distanced or more. As with all health and safety mitigation measures, this decision will be closely monitored and refined as necessary. Staff will provide the Board of Education an update regarding this and other protocols at their October 14, 2021, regularly scheduled Board Meeting.

\*Modified Quarantine affords students with no symptoms who have been in close contact with an individual who tested positive for COVID-19, while wearing a facial covering, or distanced 6' or more, the ability to remain in class and not need to pivot to online learning. This option requires students not be exhibiting any symptoms, be tested 2x weekly over the 10-day quarantine timeline, and not participate in any outside-of-school activities. Please see page 3 of the [Decision Tree](#).

### **Ventilation**

Last year, Solana Beach School District conducted a mechanical assessment in order to upgrade the heating ventilation and air conditioning systems (HVAC). As a result, MERV 13-rated filtration was installed and outside air intake and air exchanges were increased. The Board gave direction to staff to further explore additional ventilation health and safety measures.

### **Testing**

SBSD continues to support COVID-19 testing during the 2021-22 school year. Due to a nationwide testing kit shortage, the Board has given staff direction to focus SBSD's limited rapid antigen testing and human resources towards keeping as many students on campus as possible. Recommendations included targeting resources to provide the twice-weekly testing necessary to offer the Modified Quarantine option to students and staff as well as Return on Day 8 testing. At this time, the proposed Proactive Testing will be placed on hold until supplies are more readily available.

My sincerest appreciation and thanks to all of our students, staff, and families while we continue to navigate this ever-changing landscape. Thank you also for doing all you can inside and outside of school to reinforce keeping our students in class and our schools open.

Sincerely,

Jodee Brentlinger, Superintendent

## Upcoming Board Meetings

Join Us! Solana Beach School District is currently hosting all Board meetings via Zoom video conferencing. Just us the link below:

### Next Regular Board Meeting

Wednesday, September 8, 2021, 6:30 p.m.



**A Spanish translation prepared by District staff will soon be available on our website.**

La traducción al español estará disponible próximamente en nuestro sitio web.

**A Chinese translation prepared by District staff will soon be available on our website.**

我们即将在学区网站上提供中文的翻译版本