



BOARD OF EDUCATION

Vicki King, Esq., *President*

Debra H. Schade, Ph.D., *Vice President*

Gaylin Allbaugh, *Clerk*

Dana King, *Member*

Julie Union, *Member*

SUPERINTENDENT

Jodee Brentlinger

January 13, 2022

Dear Solana Beach School District (SBSD) Families,

This week I had the pleasure of visiting all eight of our campuses to personally welcome back students and staff. While I heard about their relaxing and enjoyable breaks, both students and staff clearly shared their excitement and delight to be back in school.

Please find below some important information and updates since my January 7, 2022, Communication to Families:

Masking Recommendations

On Wednesday, January 12, 2022, the San Diego County Office of Education sent all districts a letter from Dr. Taras, a UCSD consulting physician on the K-12 Sector Team. This letter provided an important update stating that cloth masks are no longer recommended as protection against the Omicron variant. He then provided additional information on what many experts now advise for upgraded protection:

- ***The most protective masks are N95 masks as well as masks of that style, which include KN95 (manufactured in China) and KF94 masks (manufactured in Korea).*** The most reliable brands are those N95 masks whose manufacturer and model number are listed as “approved” on the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) website.
- A 3-ply surgical mask with a nose wire is a better option than a cloth mask for staff and students.
- Equally good, especially if a surgical mask has gaps around the face and does not fit snugly, is a surgical mask in combination with a cloth mask.
 - If wearing both masks, wear a surgical mask (paper disposable) under the cloth mask.
 - Do not combine two surgical masks, as they are not designed to fit tightly
- Since cloth masks alone are not as effective as other options, they should be discouraged, but still allowed.

At-Home COVID-19 Tests

I want to thank our families who picked up at-home COVID tests for their children. Our leadership team and Board members provided 1,845 student tests the weekend before school resumed. By Sunday evening, we had 1,318 results posted in the portal and, thankfully, prevented 64 positive

309 North Rios Avenue, Solana Beach, California 92075-1298 • Phone (858) 794-7100 • Fax (858) 794-7105

individuals from coming onto campus Monday, January 10. Just a reminder: In order to keep students in class and our schools open, any time you might suspect a possible positive COVID result, please keep your child home and test prior to sending to school. This will greatly reduce disruption and help prevent staffing shortages.

If you were unable to pick up an at-home test for your child, please reach out to kristietowne@sbsd.net to schedule a time for pick up. Tests will be distributed to guardians of students who have not already received a test and who are registered in *Primary.Health*.

CDC/CDPH Updated Isolation and Quarantine Timelines

Please know that the Decision Trees outlining isolation and quarantine timelines continue to change. We have seen multiple revisions just this week. In order to remain up-to-date please utilize this link: [COVID-19 Decision Trees for K-12 Schools](#) .As changes are made, you will have the most current version.

Sincerely,

Jodee Brentlinger, Superintendent

Next Regular Board Meeting

Thursday, January 20, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

