

Superintendent Chat FAQ Document

August 18, 2021

Why isn't the District testing all students like LAUSD?

- Per the District's prior communication, the Newhall School District will continue to enforce a number of COVID Safety protocols during the school day, including frequent hand-washing, mask wearing indoors, deep cleaning the classrooms each night, improved air filters for the HVAC systems, and three feet of social distancing as much as possible throughout the day. These protocols were instrumental in our success last spring. We continue to monitor the number of confirmed cases across our District. Our current data since the start of school shows a .2% rate of students/staff with confirmed cases. Should we need to add additional layers of support based on new required protocols, we will of course follow suit.

How do sites contact trace? Does it include lunch and recess?

- The District is required to contact trace for any student or adult who is within 6ft of someone who is a confirmed positive COVID case for a total of 15 minutes within a 24-hour period.
- During classroom instruction, the District follows up with the classroom teacher by looking at seating charts and the various small group instruction activities. We have been instructed to focus on in class instruction time.
- Students are required to wear their masks while waiting in line for lunch, so we do our best to see if there are any other close contacts that were seated next to a confirmed positive case while eating lunch. Outdoor play is not factored in based on the guidance.
- The District follows the guidelines from LADPH.

How does the District enforce social distancing at lunch?

- Social distancing is not required outside and while eating, there are markers indicating 3 feet between each student.

What is the protocol for informing families of a positive COVID case on a school site?

- Confirm there is a positive case
- Contact trace and remove any close contacts
- Notify families who are close contacts
- Notify the entire class
- District follows up to determine if any of the close contacts test positive.

What is the learning plan when students are quarantined?

- Any student who is required to quarantine due to a positive case or is a close contact will be placed on short-term independent study and provided work by the school site.
- Students placed on short term independent study do not have to give up their seat at their school.

Why hasn't the District created a COVID dashboard similar to the Hart School District?

- The District informs families when they are a close contact or in the classroom of a positive case. Unfortunately we have already seen evidence of families shaming other families on social media when they know who the positive case was and the District does not want to see that situation expand further.

How is social distancing maintained in the classroom?

- Current guidance from LAPDH does not require any social distancing in the classroom if the students are wearing a mask, however, the District feels that holding to as close to 3 feet as possible is an additional layer of support.

When will the District reassess the protocols?

- Each week the District is reviewing the data and looking for trends. Based on any new information, the District may make changes to classroom arrangements, contact tracing protocols, etc.