

MEMO

To: Staff, Families, Guardians & Community
From: Michael Cox, Superintendent
Re: Welcome Back to School

Date: August 3, 2021

Welcome back to the 2021-2022 school year. We are so excited to have all of our staff and students back for in-person learning on our campuses. Last year we proved that our safety plans were followed and kept all staff and students safe during the COVID-19 Pandemic when many schools only offered distance learning. I know that everyone has been wondering what the beginning of the school year will look like with the increasing COVID-19 case rates in Lake County. Currently the COVID-19 transmission rate is measured in 4 levels and is based on positive case rate in combination with vaccination percentage:

1. Minimal
2. Moderate
3. Substantial
4. Widespread

Currently Lake County is reported in Widespread transmission. Our case rates are parallel to the case rate from January 2021. While still in the pandemic, we will follow the safety plans that kept us safe during the last school year. We will have more flexibility, but some precautionary measures will remain in place. Until our COVID-19 transmission rates fall back down into the moderate or minimal transmission levels we will continue to focus on keeping our students and staff safe and healthy. Our approach is guided by the California Department of Public Health, and the following protective measures will be in place:

- Face coverings/masks will be required by all staff and students indoors. LCPHD recommends masking outdoors. We will re-evaluate when Lake County reports moderate or minimal transmission rates.
- Please continue to practice frequent hand washing and sanitizing.
- Visitors are still not allowed on our campuses without prior approval from site administration.

For more information on the safety criteria outlined by the California Department of Public Health, visit them at:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx>.

We will continue to modify our actions based on the most current guidance available from the public health officials.

The first day of our next successful school year is August 16th. We appreciate the partnership and support from our community last year and we continue to be, Middletown Strong, keeping all staff and students safe.

More information will be provided by your child's school site regarding the first day of school. It is very important, and I cannot stress this enough, please stay home and/or keep your child home if ill. Since we are returning to full in-person instruction, it continues to be very critical to maintain a healthy, safe environment. It is with humble gratitude that I continue to serve the community of MUSD.

Michael Cox