



COVID Mid-Year Update

Presented to the
Board of Education on
January 11, 2022

A Review of the Safety Measures in Place Since the Beginning of the Year

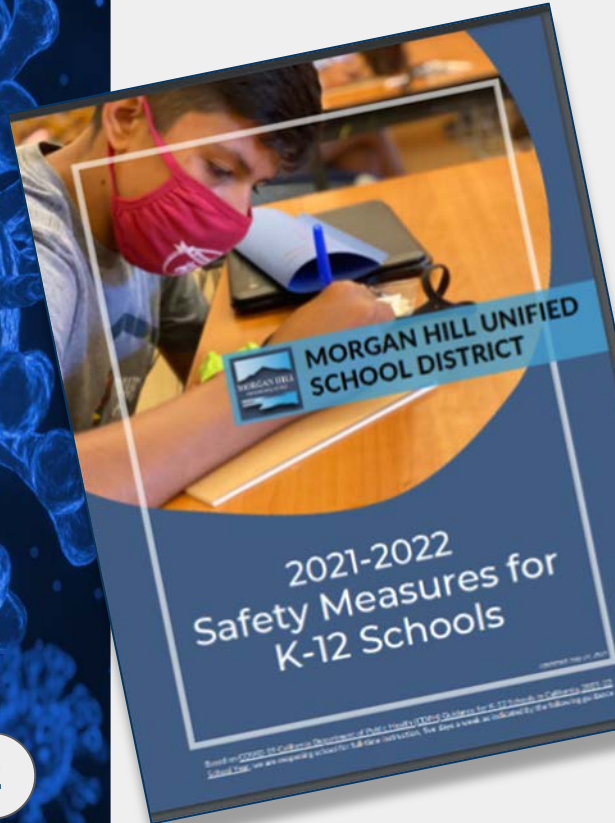


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BOARD OF EDUCATION

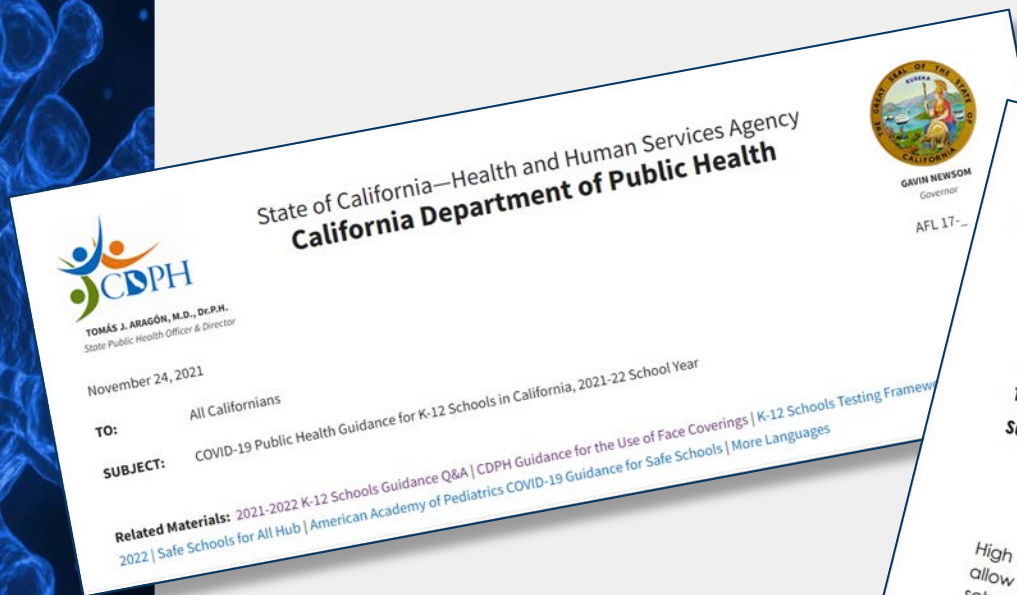
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SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Gentry Smith



MHUSD Implements CDPH Guidelines



Masks

- Masks continue to be an important mitigation layer
- CDPH guidelines for K-12 school settings requires that masks be worn universally indoors
- Although not mandatory, we encourage the use of masks outside
- Current State mask mandate for the general public has been extended through February 15



Precautions

Physical Distancing

- Physical distancing is no longer a primary mitigation in the school setting
- Recommendation continues to be to distance to the extent possible



Ventilation

- In September 2021, the Board approved the HVAC filtration project, an upgrade to the District's HVAC system to further increase ventilation throughout District buildings

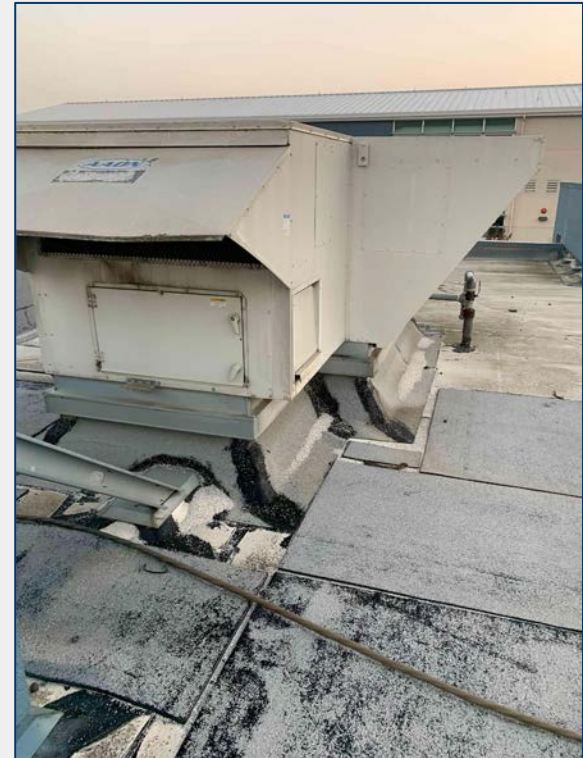
Ventilation Upgrade Project

- Every HVAC unit has been assessed, belts replaced, MERV-13 filters have been installed, and all air flow has been adjusted to maximize fresh air into school facilities
- Many of the HVAC units are 30 years old and at the end of their lifecycle. The contractors, however, were impressed with the working condition and how well the equipment has been maintained



Ventilation Upgrade Project

- Cypress Engineering is now reviewing the assessment reports and making recommendations for repairs
 - The District has received repair proposals for half of the sites and vendor is starting to procure materials to begin repairs
- Committed costs for the assessment only (not including repairs) was just under \$730K
 - On track to be under budget by ~40% due to how fast and efficient the contractors completed the assessments



Ventilation Upgrade Project



- In December, the District submitted its application for the CalSHAPE grant
 - Provides funds for ventilation assessments and upgrades for the three eligible sites (PA Walsh, Britton, and Barrett)
 - The potential maximum award is \$211K, actual amount will be determined by the California Energy Commission

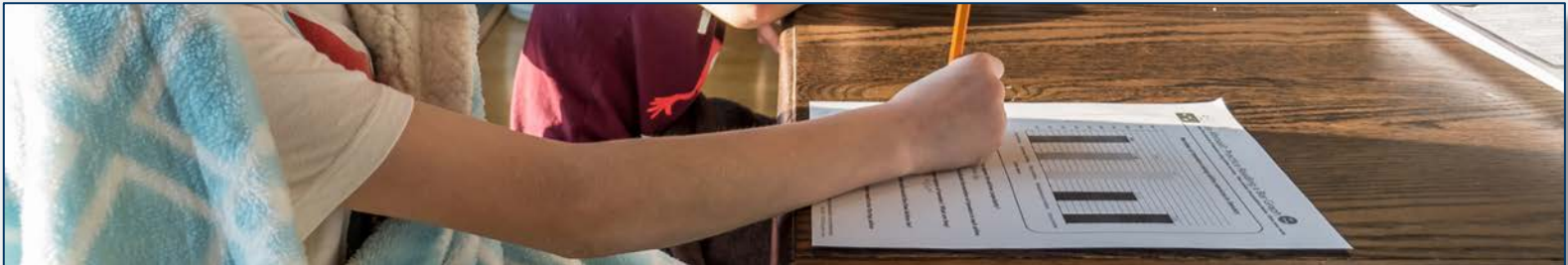
Feeling Sick and Staying Home

This continues to be the guidance for students and staff to stay home when feeling ill



Feeling Sick and Staying Home

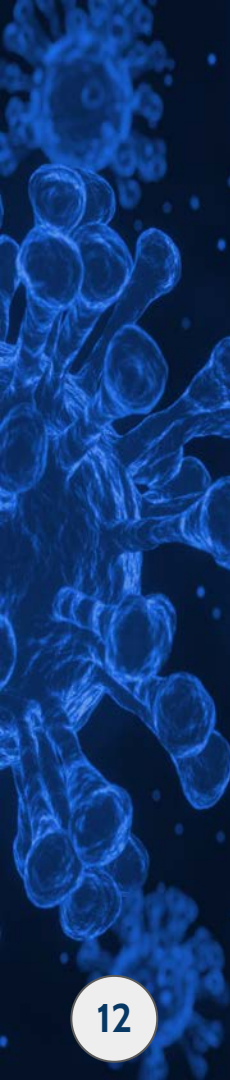
- Students are able to access short-term independent study contracts during their absences
 - Upon notification of a positive test, or a school based close contact student are provided with an independent study contract to have continued access to the curriculum
 - Students can be on short term independent study between 5 and 30 days. Beyond that, they are transitioned to long term independent study
 - Approximately 280 students have been on short-term IS for COVID/Quarantine thus far in 2021-22 (this number is expected to go up after numbers calculated from the return after winter break)



COVID-19 Testing, Case Reporting, Contact Tracing, and Investigation

Each site's Health Assistant was trained last spring to conduct PCR testing and continue to offer weekly on-site testing for staff





COVID-19 Testing, Case Reporting, Contact Tracing, and Investigation

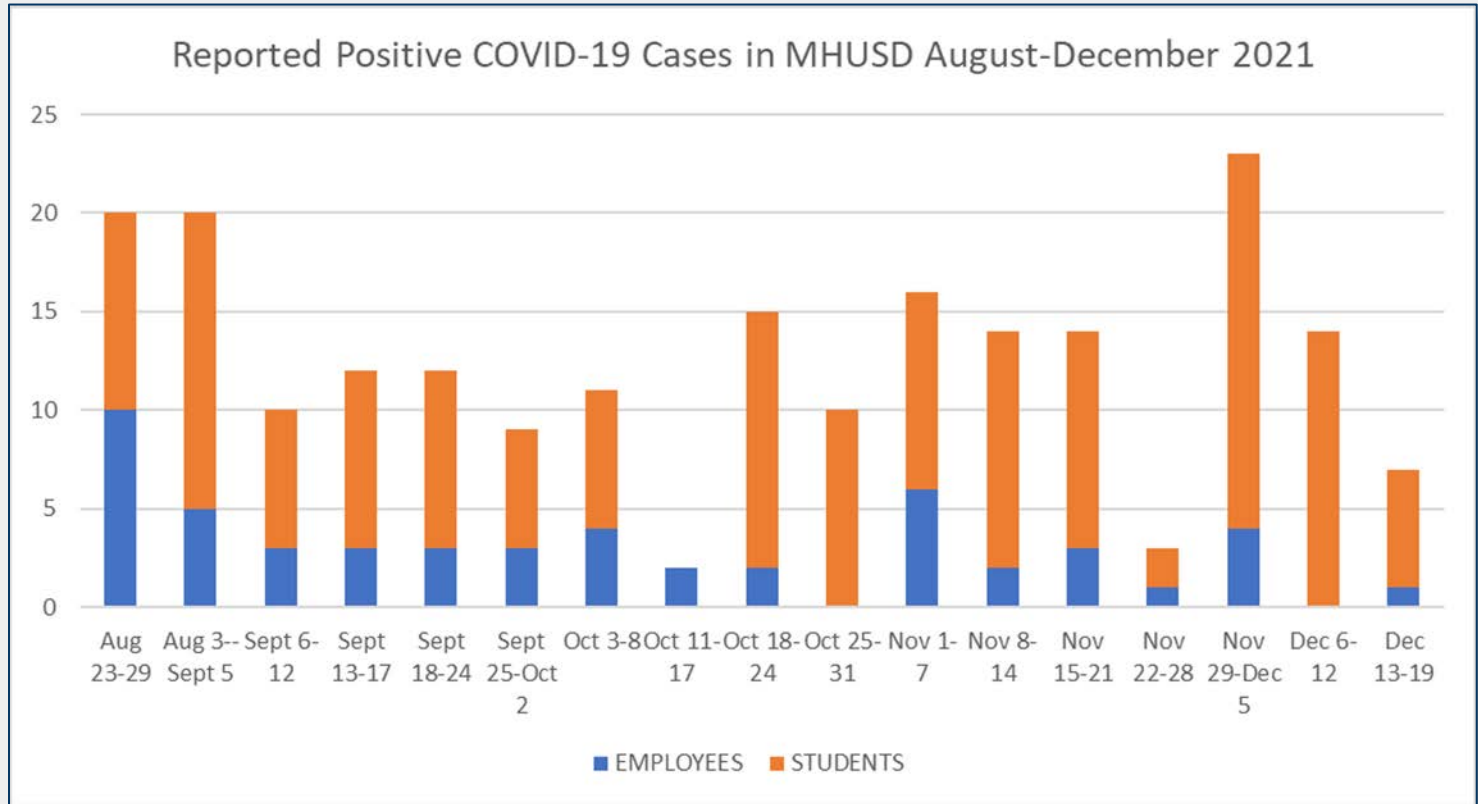
- Due to the volume of testing, case reporting, and contact tracing associated with positive cases, an additional support staff person has been assigned to each site
- The District has contracted with BayPLS, a mobile COVID-19 testing lab with fully trained technicians who administer rapid antigen tests weekly for all student athletes, musicians, and afterschool club members who compete. BayPLS technicians are also able to rapid test groups of students in response to a school-setting exposure
 - This testing solution is 100% grant-funded from CDPH

COVID-19 Testing, Case Reporting, Contact Tracing, and Investigation



- The District was allocated 8900 iHealth at-home rapid antigen test kits provided by the CDPH At-Home testing program; District staff distributed these kits to students on Sunday, January 2nd and Monday, January 3rd
- We are purchasing additional kits
- With the Omicron surge, there has been a spike in reported positive cases

Positive Cases as Reported on Weekly Dashboard



Quarantine and Isolation Recommendations

- Quarantine guidelines for both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals have been adjusted by CDC and CDPH since school began
- The latest updated guidance from January 5, 2022 for isolating once a positive test is confirmed or COVID-19 symptoms are present is *“Regardless of vaccination status, previous infection or lack of symptoms... Isolation can end after day 5 if symptoms are not present or are resolving and a diagnostic specimen collected on day 5 or later tests negative.”*



Cleaning

There have been no changes to our cleaning protocols, which continue to be:

- Buildings are cleaned daily
- Disinfecting and cleaning supplies are available in each work area for additional use, as needed
- Disinfecting occurs in spaces occupied by a reported positive COVID case



Student Nutrition



- Continued universal feeding program - any student who wants a meal can get one
- 5,500 meals served daily
- Meal kits provided during closure periods, including turkey distribution

Transportation

- Masks **MUST** be worn while on the bus
- A few windows remain open (about 2 inches) for ventilation
- Ridership is down from pre-COVID and has also decreased since return from winter break
- We continue to recruit for bus drivers



Visitors & Volunteers

- School year opened without volunteers
- By October 1st, the District published guidelines to welcome back volunteers
- The guidelines require that all volunteers, coaches, and subs are fingerprinted, have a current TB test and verification of COVID-19 vaccine on file in Human Resources



Vaccinations

Vaccination Verification

- Following the August 12, 2021 order of the Governor, the District verified vaccination status of all employees
- Unvaccinated employees test weekly
- 95% of District employees have verified that they are fully



Vaccine Clinics

- After the approval of the vaccine for 5-11 year olds, the District partnered with County Public Health and Safeway to provide 10 separate vaccine clinics for boosters as well as first and second doses, for students, staff, and the general community
- Now that students age 12+ are eligible for boosters, we will partner again to host vaccine clinics in the district



AB 130 Independent Study

- Enrollment in Independent Study as an option for families/student who prefer not to attend school in person has decreased since the start of the school year and the wide availability of vaccines for all age groups
- As of January 3, 2022, below are the number of students currently enrolled in the Independent Study program in our District:
 - Grades K-5 = 67 students
 - Grades 6-8 = 25 students
 - Grades 9-12 = 96 students



Questions or Comments