

Lowell Joint SCHOOL DISTRICT

“Home of Scholars and Champions”



Healthy Families and Staff Newsletter (Update #24)

Lowell Joint **STRONG**

January 15, 2021



I keep reminding myself to stop and breathe which helps to reground myself as we all walk through this COVID19 storm. There is so much information, ever changing guidelines, perceptions, rumors, and conflicting information that we each have to keep reminding ourselves to take one step at a time; truly. The past 2-3 weeks has been especially challenging for us as a district, state and nation. Many of our Lowell Joint staff and families are working through loss and serious life challenges; the grace and mercy we give to each other is so precious. It is understandable that folks can become frustrated and anxious through all of these stormy times, but we are reminded that as we have our feet planted on solid rock, we are not given more than we can handle. We are **SO** blessed to have a staff with such heart, compassion, care and work hard; **THANK YOU!** We continue to stand in faith as we are **LOWELL JOINT STRONG** and we will stand strong against the storms that come our way; you are the beacon/lighthouse of educational excellence; **THANK YOU!**

We want to give the Lowell Joint Family/Staff some updates, but please know that these are cliff-note versions of a multifaceted/ever changing world:

- The overall infection data for both Counties has gotten much worse and we hope reaching its peak: The [LA County Public Health Department](#) updated tracking numbers are:
 - Spread/case rate: Current data is 77/100K. Start of December is was 20.2. (#/100K citizens- target is <7/100K)
 - Test positivity percentage: Current data is 20.5%. Start of December is was 7.0%. (target is <8%)
 - Health Equity: Current data is 26.3%. Start of December is was 13.9. (accounting for high poverty aspects; no real target established)The [Orange County Public Health Department](#) updated tracking numbers are:
 - Spread/case rate: Current data is 78.8/100K. Start of December is was 22.2. (#/100K citizens- target is <7/100K)
 - Test positivity percentage: Current data is 19.5%. Start of December is was 8.8%. (target is <8%)
 - Health Equity: Current data is 24.2%. Start of December is was 16.2. (accounting for high poverty aspects; no real target established)

Hospitalization capacity and death rates have also reach critical levels in both LA and Orange County.

The most current data is located on the State COVID19 webpage ([State Link](#)). National data summary from John Hopkins: [John Hopkins COVID Resource Center](#). Governor’s blueprint: COVID19.CA.GOV or [California Department of Public Health](#).

- The Governor – California Department of Public Health (CDPH) – LA and Orange County Public Health are issuing new orders almost every couple of days; in fact, the CDPH just published new guidelines last night. Here is the very short version as it affects schools:
 - 1) Currently, LA County Schools are strongly recommended to convert to 100% distance learning for at least January and then a wait and see for February,
 - 2) Currently, Orange County Schools are making their own choices, but most are remaining 100% distance learning until at least mid-February,
 - 3) The infection rate increases are significant, as you can see above, which is not coming from school settings, but coming from group gatherings away from schools.
 - 4) The Governor has purposed another new very aggressive reopening of schools plan, which is having some serious challenges coming from a variety of groups, districts, and other politicians. We will have to watch and see how this develops. One key component is his current proposal that schools reopen with the case rate is at 25/100K; it is currently 77/100K.
- These are the links for the [California Department of Public Health](#) and the [Orange County Health Care Agency](#).

- Please stay connected with your site principal if you have questions or concerns.
- Considering the 100's of moving parts, the most recent Los Angeles/Orange County infection rates and data, the strong recommendations of both Los Angeles and Orange County, **we have adjusted our anticipated phased reopening plan to begin no sooner than March 1, 2021.**
- Lowell Joint did submit our requests for Waivers to both LA and Orange County, but at this point both counties are not processing any waivers until the “case rate” gets closer to 25/100K; which is currently 77/100K. In fact, as of yesterday afternoon the Governor has created a completely new waiver reopening process. We will continue to update the Lowell Joint Family regularly because we want you to have as much accurate and concrete information as possible.
- There is also news coming out related to the upcoming availability of voluntary vaccination. Phase 1a is focusing on health care providers and first responders and was just expanded to include folks over 65yrs old. Phase 1b will focus on essential works, which does include educational staff. Phase 2 begins to expand out to citizens on a broader scale. Orange County details:
 - There will be five Super Pod sites where Phase 1b, which include educational staff, will be able for voluntary vaccination. The Super Pods will be open from 5 a.m.-11 p.m.
 - These Super Pods will also be for the broader citizens once Phase 2 and 3 come on line.
 - Anyone who wishes to receive the vaccine will make an appoint by using an APP call Othena: <https://covid19.othena.com/patient-registration/agreement>. The APP is currently operational as of Monday, but again they are only processing Phase 1a folks currently. LA County seems to be behind in setting up their version of Super Sites.
- **Please, please, please** know that during these times everything really does change and adjust every 2-4 days and now sometimes every 2-4 hours. Thank you for your patience, mercy, and grace.
- You are **GREATLY APPRECIATED, GREATLY VALUED AND GREATLY LOVED!**

Keeping the Lowell Joint Family Informed and Connected...

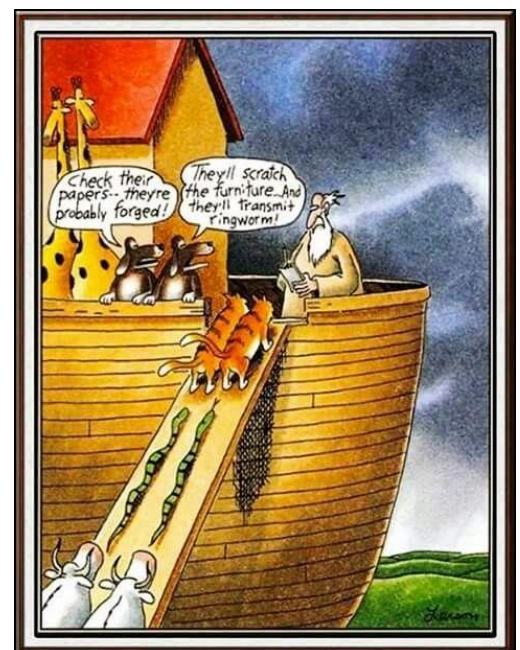
I know that this whole crazy world is more than frustrating, scary, confusing, and overwhelming at times. Speaking for me personally, there really is not a day that goes by that I don't need a little time to pause, hit my knees, and take a deep breath. There are a number of staff and families that are working through some very tough storms right now and more than ever we need to walk in grace and mercy. Lowell Joint is truly a very special place, we will withstand these storms, and come out strong on the other side.

Your continued strength, compassion, care, resilience, GRIT, and heart are an incredible testimony to the shared dedication and commitment of our students, staff, parents, and community. Yes, this is the same thing we say each time, but it is so true and I will keep reminding you...

**THANK YOU – YOU
ARE A BLESSING!
LOWELL JOINT
STRONG!!**

*A littler laughter helps bring
joy....*

Everyone has an opinion....



No this is not a family picture, but it could have been....

