



# Lowell Joint SCHOOL DISTRICT

*"Home of Scholars and Champions"*



*Healthy Families and Staff Newsletter* (Update #27)

## Lowell Joint **STRONG**

March 12, 2021



### WOW, WHAT AN AWESOME REOPENING SO FAR!!!

It has been incredible to hear the giggles and squeals as students walk the hallways and that is just the staff 😊. Truthfully, it was been wonderful to watch our staff actually in tears as they welcome our students back home. Please remember that during these stormy times we have had our feet planted on solid rock and we are not given more than we can handle. We cannot thank our families enough for their patience and constant support as we all walk this journey together. We are **SO** blessed to have a staff with such heart, compassion, care, and is hardworking; **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!**

Cliff-note versions of a multifaceted/ever changing world:

#### LA County Public Health Department updated tracking numbers:

- Spread/case rate: Current data is **5.2**/100K. Last week it was **7.2**. (#/100K citizens- target is <7/100K). Eight weeks ago it was **77**/100K.
- Test positivity percentage: Current data is **2.5**%. Last week it was **3.5**%. (target is <8%). Eight weeks ago it was **20.5**%.
- Health Equity: Current data is **3.6**%. Last week it was **5.1**%. Eight weeks ago it was **26.3**%.

#### Orange County Public Health Department updated tracking numbers:

- Spread/case rate: Current data is **6.0**/100K. Last week it was **7.6**. (#/100K citizens- target is <7/100K). Eight weeks ago it was **78.8**/100K.
- Test positivity percentage: Current data is **3.2**%. Last week it was **3.9**%. (target is <8%). Eight weeks ago it was **19.5**%.
- Health Equity: Current data is **4.1**%. Last week it was **5**%. Eight weeks ago it was **24.2**%.

This is more good news that the numbers continue to drop significantly 😊.

Current State data ([State Link](#)). National data from John Hopkins: [John Hopkins COVID Resource Center](#).

Governor's blueprint: [California Department of Public Health](#).

- As a reminder, our Safe Reopening Plans, *Return to School Adaptable Plan Continuum* and supporting documents are always on our website under [Healthy Families Updates \(COVID19\)](#).

School/Location	Number of Students & Staff (In-Person)+	Current Confirmed Cases <sup>A</sup>		Proportion of School Population
		Students	Staff	
El Portal	560	0	0	0.00000
Jordan	467	0	0	0.00000
Macy	487	0	0	0.00000
Meadow Green	556	0	0	0.00000
Olita	474	0	0	0.00000
Rancho Starbuck	848	0	0	0.00000
Other District Facilities	40	NA	0	0.00000
<b>Last Updated 3/12/21</b>				
+ This number may fluctuate but will be updated periodically.				
*Information updated regularly and as cases are confirmed.				
This includes all confirmed positive cases, <b>who have been on campus, within the last 14 days</b> .				
*Contract tracing is completed immediately and anyone who is determine to be a "close contact" has been personally notified.				
*No cases are epidemiologically linked at this time and all HIPAA laws are followed.				
*N/A = Not Applicable				

- Brief summary:

- 1) Our first two weeks of reopening have been **beyond awesome; THANK YOU**. Our final elementary grades reopen next Monday followed by our 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades starting March 29, 2021.

✓7 March 29

✓8 April 5 (pending case rate data)

- 2) Thank you to every staff member who is making the return to school a giant success as you juggle and adjust a 1000 details every day; **Ya'll are a Blessing!**
  - 3) Thank you to the principals and support staff that have, and continue, to take care of 1001 details behind the scenes so that students are safe and get everything they need; **YOU ROCK!**
  - 4) We are so excited to share that every single staff member who let us know they wanted vaccinations have been vaccinated by this past Tuesday. A huge thank you goes to MJ who help coordinate these.
- I am sure you already know that at this point the State is requiring we give the annual CAASPP testing this spring, which is beyond silly. We all know that there has been learning loss and we do not need to place this stress on our students, but the State is moving ahead. Please know that it is our position that we will simply ask our students to try their best, because we always try our best, yet there is absolutely no pressure. We will not be placing a big focus on these test scores, because we know they have little (if any) real value. Our focus is on finishing this year strong socially-emotionally and preparing academically for the 2021/2022 school year. The 2022 Spring CAASPP test scores will be what we pay attention to and we have time to support our students as we fill any learning loss over the next year and a half. Please give our students and yourself grace.
  - Lowell Joint will be offering a Summer School program to support students' social-emotional needs, and start to fill some of the learning gaps that have developed. We will be sending out more information over the next few weeks for this voluntary opportunity. At this point you can plan that Summer Splash☺ will be June 1<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, Monday-Thursday, from 8:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m., which is similar to the high school program. Our goal is the try and help families who have both elementary/junior high and high school students. The focus will **not** be computer screen time, but personal connection, engagement, and starting to fill the learning gaps. Please be on the lookout for the formal announcement and sign-ups which will come out when we return from Spring Break.
  - As we prepare for the 2021/2022 School Year, we will be sending out Virtual Academy Enrollment information to families right when we get back from Spring Break. We will be operating Virtual Academy classes for those families who cannot and/or do not feel comfortable returning their students to in-person instruction next year. We know that these types of decisions are tough, especially considering that August is still some ways off, but we have to plan ahead for the placement or hiring of staff. Please be on the lookout for the Virtual Academy information the first week of April.
  - For our Rancho 8<sup>th</sup> graders – Mrs. Takacs has been working hard to plan your 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation. We do not have final directions from LA County Public Health, but will make sure to communicate as soon as possible with our families once we know what we are allowed to do. We want to celebrate our awesome students!
  - We are excited to share that the Macy construction project is right on schedule and going very well. There is truly a great amount of work and we look forward to welcoming the Macy staff back in July. The Jordan staff and students will be moving to the temporary Maybrook campus in July and remain at Maybrook for the entire 2021/2022 school year while their campus is under construction. We continue to thank our community for their support of the Measure LL Bond that is making this work possible.
  - Our Lowell Joint SD transfer of jurisdiction oversight from LA County to Orange County has been under way since July 2020. Thank you to the Lowell Joint community for passing Measure O, which allows us to formally transfer jurisdiction. This in turn will assure our annual savings of more than \$250K annually in free services. This transfer will be completed by July 1, 2021. Thank you again to our Lowell Joint citizens.
  - The following are informational links:
    - [California Department of Public Health](#) and the [Orange County Health Care Agency](#).
    - Lowell Joint [Safe Reopening Plans, CAL/OSHA order](#)
    - Lowell Joint [Injury & Illness Prevention Program \(IIPP\)](#)
  - LJSD continues to have **very- very few** staff or students that have notified us that they have tested positive. At this point, any cases have **not** been epidemiologically linked to any school.
  - **Please stay connected with your site principals if you have questions, concerns or needs.**

- You are **GREATLY APPRECIATED, GREATLY VALUED AND GREATLY LOVED!**

We all continue to take a deep breath each day as we juggle this ever changing world. Thank you for supporting each other through the storms as we walk in grace and mercy. Lowell Joint is truly a very special place, we will withstand these storms, and come out stronger 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....*

Ever had one of those days....

I hear Disneyland is reopening, and I heard Mickey is fired-up and excited to greet folks back 😊 ....

