

Superintendent Christopher Downing, Ed.D.

Board of Education Juan Gabriel Álvarez Jackie Filbeck Mark A. Lopez Jose Paolo Magcalas, Ph.D. Ryan A. Ruelas August 9, 2022

Dear AESD Families,

We are excited to have started our Preschool program on Monday, August 8 and to welcome back your TK-6 students to school on Thursday, August 11, 2022. In preparation for the school year, the following update is provided to keep you informed regarding the Anaheim Elementary School District:

Update on Weekly COVID-19 Data for Anaheim

Our District continues to prioritize the health and safety of stakeholders as our top priority. Although California no longer reports data within the tiered colored system, the City of Anaheim updates their data weekly. For the seven days through August 2, Anaheim saw 1,037 new cases, down from 1,759 new cases a week earlier.

COVID-19 Safety

It is important that we all remain vigilant in our safety protocols and it is **still highly recommended by CDPH to continue to wear masks indoors when in close proximity to others.** Other safety protocols include frequently washing our hands and seeking testing when displaying any symptoms of COVID.

Please continue to self-screen your child before coming to school. If your child has any COVD-19 symptoms, keep them at home and report their absence to your school.

COVID-19 Testing

All AESD schools provided Grab n Go's on August 8 to share home testing kits and masks prior to the start of the school year. If you were not able to retrieve your children's testing kit; please visit your school office before the start of school. It is recommended that you use these home tests from the Grab n Go to test your child before they return to school on the first day. Please notify the school immediately if your child tests positive.

For students who are symptomatic and/or have tested positive; we will now accept photo results of negative at-home COVID-19 tests in order for them to return to school. Student's name and date of test must be written on the test before a photo is taken and submitted to your child's school. The District will be providing at-home tests on a regular basis for use by a parent or guardian.

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COVID-19 testing will continue to be available at our Key site for all AESD staff and students. To register and make an appointment, please click <u>here</u>.

COVID-19 Vaccines

The COVID-19 vaccine is effective at protecting people from getting seriously ill and/or being hospitalized. Getting the vaccine is a safer, more reliable way to build protection than getting sick with COVID-19. Click <u>here</u> for information about two vaccine clinics at our schools. You can also visit the <u>OCHCA website</u> to find vaccine clinics throughout Orange County.

We are committed to providing a safe and engaging environment for your child. Please contact your school administrators if you have any questions.

Sincerely, Dr. Christopher Downing Superintendent