



From the Superintendent's Desk

Weekly Update From Supt. Jerry Almendarez

January 3, 2022



Dear SAUSD community,

I wish everyone a Happy New Year, and look forward to all the amazing things we can accomplish together in 2022.

The recent spike in COVID-19 cases both locally and nationally caused by the Omicron variant has added another challenge for all schools. As we start the new year and return to school, I want to again emphasize that Santa Ana Unified School District remains committed to providing a safe and nurturing learning environment for our students.

The safety protocols in place across every school continue to follow the latest guidance from local, state, and federal health care agencies. We continue to have weekly testing of all staff and students; masking for all indoor activities; comprehensive sanitizing efforts; frequent hand washing; extensive air filtration systems; and collaboration with health partners and agencies to support free COVID-19 vaccinations. These efforts will continue as long as they are needed.



[@milesOfsmilesatMadison](#)

Latest News

At-home testing kits to be distributed to SAUSD families

The California Department of Public Health will offer families free, at-home COVID-19 tests as students return from winter break. While the SAUSD plans to participate in this program, it has not yet been determined when the tests will arrive in Orange County.

In an effort to reduce COVID-19 transmission on campuses, particularly as the Omicron variant surges, the CDPH has said it will make millions of rapid antigen testing kits available to California students through their parents and guardians as soon as this week. State health officials have stressed that there is no statewide testing mandate, but families are encouraged to use the at-home tests as an added precaution.

SAUSD has ordered 43,000 at-home testing kits that will be delivered to school sites for distribution to students' families. These at-home kits are in addition to the weekly testing being done at every school for all students and staff. More information will be provided as it becomes available.



COVID-19 Data

Here are the latest COVID-19 positivity rates and trends for zip codes in Santa Ana

Source: O.C. Health Care Agency (prepared Jan. 3, 2022)

ZIP code	Population	Case Rate per 100,000 (7-day day average, excluding LTCFs & Inmates)	Testing Positivity Percent (7 day avg. + 7 day lag)
92701	55,137	18.1	6.8%
92703	68,242	25.5	4.8%
92704	89,021	38.8	12.1%
92705	47,039	45.6	12.8%
92706	37,260	35.3	10.8%
92707	62,175	27.8	12.3%
Orange County Averages		22.8	6.5%

Visit www.sausd.us/covid-resources for free resources and testing information.

Know the symptoms for COVID-19

Santa Ana Unified School District encourages all students and staff to stay healthy and safe to help protect ourselves, families and overall community. If you have any COVID-19 symptoms, we ask you to please stay home. See more information at www.sausd.us to help identify if you need to stay home, or need to take other precautions.

Student Symptom Decision Tree

Low-risk: general symptoms



Fever ($\geq 100.4^{\circ}\text{F}$)



Sore throat



Congestion/runny nose



Headache



Nausea/vomiting/diarrhea



Fatigue/muscle or body aches

High-risk: red flag symptoms



Cough



Difficulty breathing



Loss of taste/smell

Upcoming Board Meeting

Jan. 11

- Public session begins at 6 p.m.
- To livestream visit www.sausd.live
- [Agenda will be available here](#)

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