



**“SOLIDARITY FOREVER!
FOR THE UNION MAKES
US STRONG!”**

-Ralph Chapman

LTA MONTHLY NEWS

August 2021 Newsletter

Welcome back members! There is no doubt that this will be a challenging year, but together we will get through it. I believe this shared experience is going to unite and strengthen us even more than before. Our Re-Opening Task Force did an awesome job with our Distance Learning MOU and=d fighting to keep us safe,



and they are still at it today. Our Bargaining Team is also in preparing for the year, and we have appointed

two new members to the team who completed training this summer, Richard Mejia, HS Teacher, and Jorge Bravo, Middle School SPED Teacher and former Instructional Lead. Speaking of SPED, I know your needs vary greatly and my goal is to get a lot of input and participation from you to help us represent you to the fullest. Speaking of participation, we had amazing participation from our Site Reps last year, and I hope to build on that. We will meet every other month virtually to make it easier for the Reps to attend, and we will continue to offer stipends. Please hold elections as soon as possible at your sites so we can start the year off strong.



We need your help with committees. We have positions available on many of our committees, including the Grievance, Safety, Curriculum, Social and a SPED Committee that I plan to form. This is your chance to ensure your input is received. Remember, LTA is US doing for US. The more engaged we all are as members, the better we can represent us all.

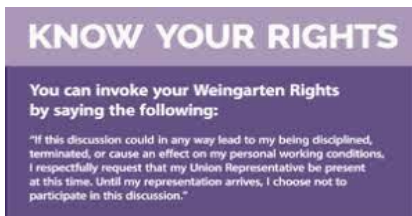
We are also looking for members who would like to advocate for equity for our groups including the LGBTQ+, Human Rights, and Women's Rights groups as LTA's representative with CTA. Please email me if you are interested in serving on a committee or as an advocate.

Lastly, some of you may have heard that the district attempted to get Board approval to bring back the Orenda Group (Principals Exchange) for teacher professional development. I immediately asked for Call to Action, and, thanks to your fast actions, Dr. Crosthwaite agreed to pull the item from the agenda. We agree that we need to be provided with professional development, but we want it to be effective and useful for us, not something to check boxes.

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I know we have members with all sorts of specialties who the district could call on to conduct valuable trainings, rather than use outside consultants. I am attaching a survey to gather a list of those talented individuals. Please complete the survey and let us know if you have certifications or degrees in reading, math, English learners, curriculum or any other specialties.

Know your rights! Members, please take some time to read your contract. It is important that you know your rights so you can advocate for yourself and your students. Remember you have rights. If a matter reaches the level of a grievance, please write out what happened, in your own words, and send it to your site rep. The rep will forward it to the appropriate member of the Grievance Committee. It is also important to know that if a matter is a potential criminal case, you should wait to speak to an attorney, not your rep. Reps do not have attorney privilege in a court of law and could be subpoenaed to testify as to what they were told.



COVID-19 and the ever-changing guidelines can be quite overwhelming. I will give you a quick summary based on the most recent guidelines. Additionally, this is the link to the most recent [California DPH Covid guidelines for Schools](#) guidelines, but do they change often. I am also posting this [health and safety complaint](#) link to report any health and safety issues to the county directly. This can be done anonymously and should be done by each member who encounters a guideline not being followed, not just by one member. We need to stay on top of this for our safety and that of our students.

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CDPH Updates based on CDC Guidelines

The intent of the new CDPH guidance is that “all students must have access to safe and full in-person instruction and to as much instructional time as possible.”

CDPH guidance emphasizes the following to ensure safe, in-person instruction: **Vaccination, Universal masking and Covid-19 Testing.**

I was just informed in a meeting that the state recently approved free Covid testing, at no charge to the district. There are plans underway as I write this newsletter for scheduled routine testing of students and staff.

Masks are optional outdoors, but mandatory indoors.

Schools are required to provide masks for students/staff if they cannot provide their own.

Those who are medically exempted from the mask mandate must wear an approved alternative.

Schools must develop a protocol to enforce the mask mandate for students or provide alternative educational opportunities for students unable/unwilling to wear a mask.

Staff can be unmasked if alone in their workspace with door closed.

Physical distancing only if possible, with 3ft for vaccinated and 6ft for unvaccinated.

Ventilation should be “optimized.”

There are no clear mandates for ventilation other than following the ASHRAE Standards and Guidelines, which our past MOU met and exceeded. All rooms with students should have the stand-alone filters. If your room does not have this filter, other safety supplies, soap, etc., or has not been cleaned, please report it right away via email to your principal with a copy to your rep. If you don't hear back immediately, please forward it to me at arellano@lynwoodta.org.



Staying home when sick:

Students and staff can return to school after a sickness with symptoms consistent with a covid-19 infection when:

At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications; and

Other symptoms have improved; and

They have a negative test for SARS-CoV-2, OR a healthcare provider has provided documentation that the symptoms are typical of their underlying chronic condition (e.g., allergies or asthma) OR a healthcare provider has confirmed an alternative named diagnosis (e.g., Streptococcal pharyngitis, Coxsackie virus),

OR at least 10 days have passed since symptom onset.

Screening for covid continues to be a recommendation, despite federal and state funded programs available.

Symptom screening is now recommended, not required.

Case reporting, contact tracing and investigation:

Schools are required to report covid-19 cases to their local public health dept.

Schools or LEAs should have a COVID-19 liaison to assist the local health department with contact tracing and investigation

Quarantining:

Vaccinated people are not required to quarantine if asymptomatic.

Students who are unvaccinated but masked during exposure may continue to attend school if:

They are asymptomatic, continue to appropriately mask, undergo twice weekly Covid-19 testing, quarantine from all extracurricular activities at school and community settings.

Unvaccinated and unmasked AND asymptomatic must quarantine:

For 10 days after the date of exposure; or

For 7 days if a negative covid-19 test is produced after day 5 of exposure.

Unvaccinated and unmasked AND symptomatic must quarantine for a full 14 days.

Cal/OSHA requires employers to exclude employees from the workplace who have COVID-19 symptoms and/or are not fully vaccinated and have had a close contact.

Hand Hygiene Recommendation remains mostly unchanged; teach good hygiene, promote handwashing throughout the day, ensure adequate supply of soap, hand sanitizer (60%), tissues, face coverings, etc.

Cleaning Recommendations:

Cleaning once a day is sufficient and recommended. Daily disinfecting further reduces infection spread.

If a facility has had a sick person with COVID-19 within the last 24 hours, clean AND disinfect the spaces occupied by that person during that time.

Food Service Recommendations:

Eating outdoors as much as possible is recommended. Maximize amount of physical distancing by using multiple spaces for lunch.

Clean frequently touched surfaces. Surfaces that come in contact with food should be washed, rinsed, and sanitized before and after meals.

No need to limit food service approaches to single use items and packaged meals.

Implications for the school year

- Universal masking will still be enforced, but subject to change as public health orders change.
- Classes will resume at full capacity, with no requirement for minimum physical distancing.
- Quarantining of exposed individuals is more nuanced, with options to reduce or skip the typical 14-day quarantine.
- Cleaning and disinfecting may be reduced to once a day and when there is a confirmed Covid case.
- While ventilation standards are not stringent, the work LTA did with its Covid MOU will ensure high ventilation standards.

Reporting Public Health Order Violations

- While public health orders and mandates concerning in-person learning have become drastically less restrictive, there are public health directive we should be vigilant about enforcing.
- Enforcement of these orders is largely done through employee reporting, which can be done online at: <https://ehservices.publichealth.lacounty.gov/servlet/guest?service=0&formId=4>

SURVEY LINK

[2021-2022 LTA Membership Survey](#)

