

Teachers should be aware the LA County Board of Education approved TK-2 classrooms to return to in person learning with a waiver. While school districts are not required to negotiate with their associations, SMMUSD is negotiating with our union with regards to school reopening plans in the hybrid model and are implementing review processes.

Since the start of distance learning in March, SMMUSD and SMMCTA have negotiated 2 MOUs with 7 addendums regarding distance learning. These are challenging and unprecedented times, but this level of collaboration is higher than many other districts in our area. (You can find all these addendums on our website at <https://www.smmcta.com/mouresourcesforms>.)

While the waiver is not subject to union approval, we at SMMCTA have many reopening concerns given the rising infection rate. We also realize following the guidelines for distancing in classrooms will be difficult and self-reporting for symptoms and exposure is an imperfect system.

We ask you to urge the board of education to rethink the hybrid plan and to continue with distance learning. When writing a letter, we suggest using the following.

1. Acknowledge the difficult situation we are *all* in. These are *not* normal times. Nothing about opening schools right now will resemble anything from the past.
2. Pick 3 concerns or reason you do not think hybrid will work and elaborate. Some suggestions.
 - Country infections rates are rising and there is not adequate testing
 - Proper air ventilation is an issue at many schools
 - There is no way to implement safe learning hybrid at secondary schools.
 - We wish to maintain the five days a week of learning.
 - Continue the relationship between the current teacher and their student and families.
 - Keep the continuity of learning without changing programs and schedules in the middle of the school year.
 - Students will have less face time with teachers, not more, in a hybrid situation.
3. Your personal narrative is persuasive. Use your own story but keep the tone professional.
4. Please be mindful of your language and share facts rather than hyperbole. Find the positives in distance learning and lead with those.
5. Our goal is to keep everyone safe. Students, teachers, districts employees, all of our families and our community at large.

We also ask you to contact Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Los Angeles County Health and the Shelia Kuehl at the LA Country Board of Supervisors and implore

them to not allow general in person instruction, even in hybrid, while the county is still in the purple tier.

Special Groups return language:

http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/docs/protocols/CohortingNotification_SchoolGrounds.pdf

LA Public Health Covid Site <http://ph.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/EducationToolkit/TK12/>

State Cohort Language <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/small-groups-child-youth.aspx#>

You can contact your school board at the following address or by email.

Name

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- Jon Kean / School Board President jkean@smmusd.org
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- Oscar de la Torre / odelatorre@smmusd.org
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Dr. Barbara Ferrer

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