

Lowell Joint SCHOOL DISTRICT

“Home of Scholars and Champions”



Healthy Families and Staff Newsletter (Update #25)

Lowell Joint **STRONG**

February 5, 2021



We keep reminding ourselves to stop and breath as we walk through this challenging COVID19 storm. There is so much information, ever changing guidelines, perceptions, rumors, and conflicting information that we each have to keep reminding ourselves to take one step at a time. The month of January has been especially challenging for us as a district, state and nation. Many of our Lowell Joint staff and families are working through loss and serious life challenges; the grace and mercy we give to each other is so precious; thank you. It is understandable that folks can become frustrated and anxious through all of these stormy times, but we are reminded that as we have our feet planted on solid rock, we are not given more than we can handle. We are **SO** blessed to have a staff with such heart, compassion, care and are 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!**

We want to give the Lowell Joint Family/Staff some updates, but please know that these are cliff-note versions of a multifaceted/ever changing world:

The LA County Public Health Department updated tracking numbers are:

- Spread/case rate: Current data is **38.7**/100K. Last week it is was **48.2**. (#/100K citizens- target is 25/100K)
- Test positivity percentage: Current data is **11.3**%. Last week it is was **13.9**%. (target is 8%)
- Health Equity: Current data is **15**%. Last week it is was **13.9**%. (accounting for high poverty aspects; no real target established)

The Orange County Public Health Department updated tracking numbers are:

- Spread/case rate: Current data is **39**/100K. Last week it is was **46.6**. (#/100K citizens- target is 7/100K)
- Test positivity percentage: Current data is **10.9**%. Last week it is was **12.9**%. (target is 8%)
- Health Equity: Current data is **13.9**%. Last week it is was **16.6**%. (accounting for high poverty aspects; no real target established).

The good news is that the numbers continue to drop significantly 😊. You can always find the most current data located on the State COVID19 webpage ([State Link](#)). National data summary from John Hopkins: [John Hopkins COVID Resource Center](#). Governor’s blueprint: [COVID19.CA.GOV](#) or [California Department of Public Health](#).

- As we shared in the last Healthy Family Update, the Governor - Cal Dept. of Public Health (CDPH) – LA and Orange County Public Health issued new orders January 14th and are expected to issue another new set today. Currently:
 - 1) LA County Schools are open only if they had already been open. All other schools are allowed and encouraged to reopen only when the case rate is at or below 25/100K. Currently the case rate is 38.7/100K, which down from 48.2/100K and 75.3/100K the week before 😊.
 - 2) Currently, almost all Orange County Schools are open and/or will be reopened by mid-February; which includes Irvine, Tustin, Capo, Orange, Placentia-Yorba Linda, Fullerton Elementary, La Habra City, Fullerton Joint, Buena Park, etc.
- The Governor purposed a new reopening of schools plan (issued January 14th) continues to be a matter of political debate among the legislature, variety of groups, districts, and other politicians. We will have to watch and see how this develops.
- These are the links for the [California Department of Public Health](#) and the [Orange County Health Care Agency](#).
- As we shared in the last couple of Health Family Update, and in alignment with State and LA/Orange County Public Health orders, we are still on track to **implement our phased reopening plan starting March 1, 2021.**

Each of your principals have been working with their site staff over the past couple of months to organize and reorganize class rosters, systems, schedules, and structures for when we are allowed to reopen. Thank you to everyone for their hard work, patience, and efforts.

- LJSJ continues to have **very few** staff or students that have notified us that they have tested positive; thank God.
- There is good news and frustrating news related to the availability of voluntary vaccination. We had shared that educational staff could anticipate voluntary vaccination being available in February, but the State is struggling with the rollout. They have not been provided an actual date, but here are a few details:
 - The whole process has just recently been turned over to Blue Shield and Kaiser to administer the process. The details are coming out very slowly; another frustration – sorry.
 - Currently LA County and Orange County Public health are still administering the vaccination for folks 65 or older, which does include some staff, and they keep sharing that educators could be very soon.
 - Orange County is still trying to make their appoint APP Othena work:
<https://covid19.othena.com/patient-registration/agreement>. We will continue to email all staff as soon as we are given the word.
- **Please, please, please** know that during these times everything really does change and adjust every 2-4 days and now sometimes every 2-4 hours. Thank you for your patience, mercy, and grace.
- You are **GREATLY APPRECIATED, GREATLY VALUED AND GREATLY LOVED!**

Keeping the Lowell Joint Family Informed and Connected...

I know that this whole crazy world is more than frustrating, scary, confusing, and overwhelming at times. There really is not a day that goes by that I don't need a little time to pause, hit my knees, and take a deep breath. There are a number of staff and families that are working through some very tough storms right now and more than ever we need to walk in grace and mercy. Lowell Joint is truly a very special place, we will withstand these storms, and come out strong on the other side.

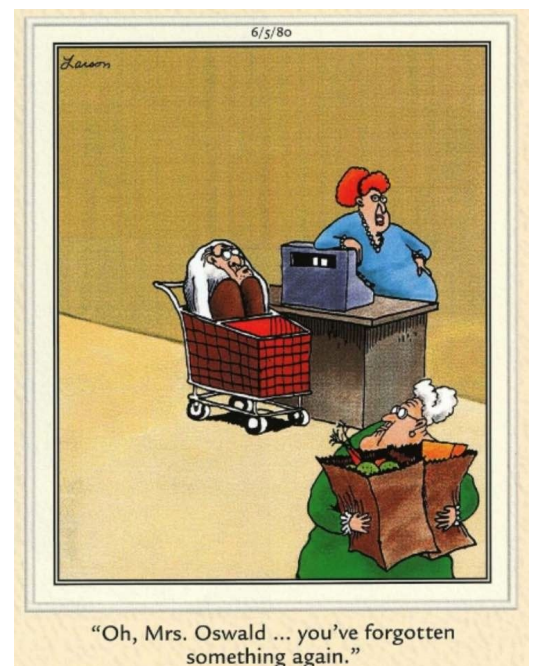
Your continued strength, compassion, care, resilience, GRIT, and heart are an incredible testimony to the shared dedication and commitment of our students, staff, parents, and community. Yes, this is the same thing we say each time, but it is so true and I will keep reminding you...

THANK YOU – YOU ARE A BLESSING!

LOWELL JOINT STRONG!!

*A littler laughter helps bring
joy....*

This will be Stephanie Coombs someday....



This not one of our boys, but could have been. This is definitely not social distancing

