

Safer Return Update to the Academic Senate
February 15, 2023

Situational Awareness



Los Angeles County is in the **Low Community** Level of Transmission.

County	CDC Community Level (Low, Medium, High)	2/15/2023				
		New Cases Reported	Weekly Cases per 100K (7-Day Average)*	Positivity Rate (7-Day Rate)*	Current Hospitalizations*	% of Population Fully Vaccinated
Los Angeles	● Low	1,191***	16.7	5.57%***	680***	78.9%
Orange	● Low	167	13.1	6.6%	164	78.6%
San Bernardino	● Low	125	15.8	6.3%	136	64.1%
Riverside	● Low	144	15.1	7.6%	127	65.5%
Statewide		2,434	14.3	5.7%	2,484	78.7%

Primary Source: CDC COVID Data Tracker: COVID-19 Integrated County View (Accessed: Feb 15, 2023), CDPH Statewide Dashboard (Accessed: February 15, 2023), LACDPH Press Releases (Accessed: February 15, 2023)

Campus Indicators	2/14/2023
On-Campus Vaccination Rate <i>Vaccination rate for enrolled students, faculty and staff who come to campus; percentage excludes individuals with a medical and/or religious exemption.</i>	73.2%
Public Health Testing Positivity Rate <i>7-day average of PCR tests through the campus public health testing program.</i>	1.66%

Key Points of Note

1. While new emergent strains have the potential to drive surges in transmission, Los Angeles County is currently remaining stable in key metrics. Being that the new dominant strain has more potential to cause infection, “Public Health officials are asking residents, especially those who are most vulnerable to severe outcomes, to consider using common-sense protections, such as getting the bivalent booster, testing before large gatherings, and seeking immediate treatment, if sick.”
2. Los Angeles County remains in the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Protection’s (CDC) Low COVID-19 Community Level for the fourth consecutive week.

Key Updates

1. Policy Changes and Updates

- a. **President Biden announced that the Federal Public Health Emergency will expire on May 11, 2023.** Based on this change, the federal government will no longer purchase COVID-19 vaccines. COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines will also have a cost-sharing obligation in the future; charges will vary depending on if the person has private insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, or no Insurance (i.e., cost estimated \$130). With the ending of the Federal Public Health Emergency, the Biden Administration released a [National COVID-19 Preparedness Plan](#) to replace the federal emergency order.
- b. **Governor Newsom announced that the California COVID-19 Emergency Declaration will end on February 28, 2023.** This change will end all pandemic-related State Executive orders issued by the Governor. This, however, does not affect local emergency and public health orders of local jurisdiction.
- c. **The California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board voted to adopt non-emergency COVID-19 prevention regulations on December 15, 2022.** These regulations took effect on February 3, 2023 and will remain in effect for two years after the effective date, except for the recordkeeping subsections that will remain in effect for three years. Cal/OSHA COVID-19 regulations still require employers to provide testing at no cost, investigate and respond to COVID-19 cases, and notify affected employees of COVID-19 in the workplace.

- d. **LA County COVID-19 Emergency Order is still in effect** and no decisions have been made regarding the end the end to the emergency order.
- e. **The University must adhere to the strictest order issued at the county, state or federal level.** Legislative reporting and notification requirements are currently in place at least through January 1, 2024 and Cal/OSHA COVID-19 regulations are currently in place through February 2025.

2. Vaccinations

- a. During the Fall Semester, we hosted sixteen (16) Pop-Up Vaccine Clinics. Safer Return will continue to host pop-up clinics throughout the Spring Semester at the Welcome Center (SSB 121 – Room 1004) on Wednesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- b. In addition, we will begin to offer flu vaccines at the pop-up clinics beginning February 14, 2023.
- c. Students and employees can continue to upload their vaccine information, including boosters, to [MyHealth portal](#).
- d. Students and employees can pre-register for COVID and/or flu vaccines via the links posted on the [CPP Safer Return Vaccine Webpage](#).

3. Testing

- a. Students, faculty and staff continue to have access to PCR tests at no cost through our campus Public Health Testing Program. Locations and information on accessing testing vending machines can be found on the [CPP Safer Return Testing Webpage](#).
- b. Students and employees can get free antigen tests at the University Library, Welcome Center, and Care Center. As of December, 400 antigen tests have been distributed.

4. Masking/PPE

- a. Masking has been downgraded to [individual preference](#) by LACDPH due to the low levels of transmission with the following exemptions: healthcare settings; if you have tested positive; or if you have been identified as a close contact.
- b. PPE, including higher grade masks, are available to students, faculty and staff at no cost. For more information on PPE, including where to find masks, visit the [Safer Return PPE webpage](#).

5. Safer Return Webinars/ Newsletter

- a. The Safer Return Newsletter will be sent on the first Wednesday of the month with updates on guidance and protocols.
- b. We will also continue hosting the weekly Zoom Drop-In/Webinar on Thursdays at U-hour (12 p.m.). For more information, including Zoom links, visit the [CPP Safer Return Webinar webpage](#).

6. Additional Points of Note

- a. If faculty and students in a class receive a close contact notification requiring masking for 10 days (or otherwise instructed), faculty may forward and/or reiterate the masking requirements to their students. The masking requirement is issued by the LACDPH as part of their exposure management plan. Faculty can contact the Dean of Students Office if they have questions regarding adherence to the close contact masking requirement.
- b. As a reminder, if you are a close contact to someone who tested positive for COVID-19, you can continue to come to campus as long as you remain symptom free and adhere to the masking requirements. We ask individuals to also test 3-5 after exposure and to report if they receive a positive result via the [COVID-19 Self-Report Form](#). Individuals who test positive or experiencing symptoms must remain off campus.