

Formal Written Correspondence to the Board [#778]

1 message

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Subject *

Covid dashboard needs addition of key safety indicators and weekly messaging from principals

Comments *

For each site/school on the LVJUSD COVID-19 Case Dashboard, add the following key safety indicators: (1) Number of cases with potential onsite exposure; (2) Number of cases with potential onsite exposure that have since tested positive (i.e. cases of COVID-19 suspected to have been contracted during onsite exposure).

The addition of these indicators will help provide data to the community about site-based spread of COVID-19 (or non-spread), and better monitor the effectiveness of interventions that are being used to prevent spread even when there is onsite exposure. For instance, if the community can see that very few students & staff that are exposed on-site end up infected from that exposure, it provides useful information about the effectiveness of measures such as masks, ventilation, prompt-symptomatic-isolation, test-to-stay, etc.

Additionally, each school principal (or designated school health safety officer) needs to send a weekly COVID-19 Safety update email, specific to that school. The principal needs to summarize the nature of any in-school COVID-19 cases and spread, and describe the plan for explicit measures that are being taken to address any spread and improve safety.

Providing a safe and healthy environment for children and staff is the most critical mission of public school. This is more important than any other activity a school is doing right now. LVJUSD needs to be as transparent as possible about safety. Transparency is the heartbeat of democracy, even if it means sharing bad news and failures. It is not enough to say, "Trust us, your children are safe." Rather, there must be a proactive engagement and willingness to demonstrate overtly and via feedback that safety measures are indeed working. And if they're not working, to be able to state those failures openly, and to implement new tools and strategies to improve safety.

I would be very happy to provide any volunteer assistance in adding these dashboard indicators and/or developing an action-plan for school-level community transparency.

Thank you for your willingness to consider these comments.