



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Parents Supporting Teachers Urges District to Baseline Test Students and Staff Prior to Start of Spring Semester

Parents Supporting Teachers (PST), the largest parent advocacy group supporting Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) teachers and families is urging the district to implement baseline testing of all students, teachers, and staff prior to the start of the Spring semester on January 10th.

The recent, ongoing Covid surge our nation and community face, due to the highly transmissible Omicron variant, has caused many families to question what the school district is doing to ensure the safe return of all staff and students. To date, there has been zero communication from the district of any revised plans to ensure student and staff safety in the wake of the surge. Nor have any shift in protocols been communicated, despite these uncertainties.

“LAUSD families are staring down yet another Covid surge, with zero communication of a revised plan to ensure student and staff safety. Ten days ago, LA County was at 3,512 cases and today, LA County has reached over 20,000 cases. Where is the text/phone call/email to help LAUSD communities understand how we will return to school with a new strategy to mitigate Omicron’s impact? How is it that you don’t have a plan?” asked PST group leaders.

PST and it’s 27,000 members demand that our schools get baseline testing next week, January 3-10. Schools already have the infrastructure in place for weekly testing, so starting it one week early should not be complicated and will provide a much-needed baseline. In addition, the stationary sites should be open from 7 am until 7 pm every day until school reopens, including weekends. If we need to postpone school reopening by a day or two to complete baseline testing, then we should do so.

Everyone who will be stepping inside of a school building the second week in January deserves to be informed and feel safe. Therefore, the second largest school district in the nation who prides itself on having the highest safety standards needs to make implementing those standards, and communicating them clearly, a priority.

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