



INNOVATIVE, SOCIALLY AWARE, NETWORK OF ACHIEVERS

ISANA Academies - A Network of Tuition-Free Public Charter Schools

Wednesday, August 10, 2022

Hello ISANA Families,

We are just days away from the first day of school – **Monday, August 15, 2022** – and I want to officially welcome our new and returning scholars and families to the 2022-23 school year. I also want to personally thank you for entrusting us with your child's education and being a member of our amazing school community.

I have several important updates to share with you, including some changes to our COVID-19 protocols, and I kindly ask that you review the following information thoroughly.

COVID-19 Updates

The protocols and guidelines that schools and other institutions must abide have changed over summer break. This has resulted in us taking a deeper look at our COVID-19 protocols and adjust them to ensure that we offer scholars, families, and staff something that is sensible and equitable for all. In alignment with guidance from both the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and the Los Angeles County Office of Education, ISANA will be implementing the following safety measures:

Baseline Testing:

- All ISANA scholars and staff must undergo an initial round of baseline COVID-19 testing.
- Please be on the lookout for direct communication from your child's school with additional baseline testing details.

Weekly Testing:

- Public health data has shown higher numbers of COVID-19 infections after breaks. For the time being, we will conduct **weekly testing for a period of two-weeks** when we return to school from summer break, Thanksgiving break, winter break, and spring break.
- We will continue to monitor any concerning trends, including absences, related to respiratory illnesses such as COVID-19, to quickly adjust our testing requirements (if needed) and help mitigate community spread.

Response Testing:

- After the two-week period, testing will only be required for those experiencing COVID-19 symptoms or those who have been in close contact with a person who has tested positive.
- Students who become symptomatic or ill while at school will be tested utilizing a rapid antigen test and if they test positive, they will be required to wear a mask while waiting to be picked up by a parent or guardian.

Positive Cases:

- If your child tests positive for COVID-19 outside school hours, please contact the school's main office immediately.
- As a reminder, individuals who test positive must isolate at home and may be released from isolation on day six, provided symptoms are improving, they are fever-free for the past 24 hours without fever-reducing medication, and have a negative test result from a rapid antigen test taken on or after day five.

Daily screening:

- Students and employees will no longer be required to have their temperature checked or undergo a daily screening to enter our school campuses.

Masking:

- Indoor masking is **strongly recommended**, but **not required**, at all ISANA schools.
- All schools will have masks available for distribution upon request.

Vaccination:

- We continue to encourage all eligible students and members of our school community to get vaccinated and receive the recommended booster dose(s).

Meal Service

Breakfast and lunch will be served Monday through Friday to all ISANA scholars completely free of charge. ISANA will continue to work with Better 4 You Meals, our school meal provider, to provide menus that meet the requirements of the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs as set forth by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

Traffic Safety

As you know, for the next couple of weeks, there will be heavier than usual traffic in and around our schools. Please remember to leave plenty of time for drop offs and pick-ups, drive slowly, and watch for students walking, biking, crossing streets, and in parking lots.

Required Immunizations

To ensure that your child may begin the 2022-23 school year without delays, please check with your pediatrician, family physician or medical clinic to make sure your child is fully immunized. To view the complete list of required immunizations for students in California, please visit www.shotsforschools.org from the California Department of Public Health. Many students have already received these vaccines and simply need to present their Immunization Record as proof of vaccination to the school. Proof of vaccination must include:

- Student's name
- Date of birth

- Vaccine name
- Date vaccine was administered; and
- Name of the clinic, office, or doctor administering the vaccine.

We look forward to working with you and your children, and thank you for your continued collaboration, support, and partnership.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nadia Shaiq".

Nadia Shaiq
Chief Executive Officer, ISANA Academies