

**Join PTA:** <https://jointotem.com/ca/pasadena/san-rafael-elementary-pta>

Hello everyone and welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! Let me get straight to the point – there is A LOT going on and we know that as a community many of us are concerned with Covid-19 safety issues given that our entire student body is currently ineligible for the vaccine.

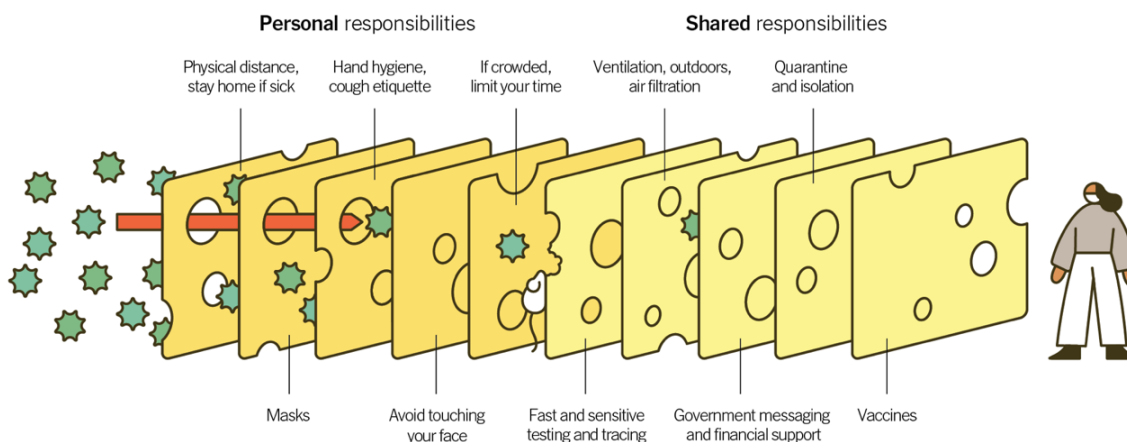
As a community, here are things we can do:

- Keep your child home if they are feeling even slightly sick. We understand that Covid-19 in children can appear to be allergies or a common cold.
- Work with our own children to practice and understand the importance of masking, hand washing, and respiratory etiquette.
- Emphasize to our own children the importance of social distancing when possible (recess, snack, lunch).
- Encourage our children to limit time spent mask-less at lunch.
- Make sure the adults around our children, when they are not at school, are vaccinated. Vaccination is still the leading public health prevention strategy to end the pandemic.
- Have your child tested regularly. Per Superintendent McDonald, PUSD will be offering weekly testing at school sites starting September 1st. Please turn in your consent forms and participate in this critical prevention strategy.
- Ask our teachers how we can support them with needed supplies.
- Advocate and share your concerns at the district level or by submitting public comment at a PUSD Board meeting. The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at 2:30PM.

Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/k-12-guidance.html>

### Multiple Layers Improve Success

The Swiss Cheese Respiratory Pandemic Defense recognizes that no single intervention is perfect at preventing the spread of the coronavirus. Each intervention (layer) has holes.



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## Tips on Masking

By: Dr. Claire Jarashow, Panda Parent

We are so fortunate to have the expertise of fellow Panda parent and infectious disease epidemiologist Dr. Claire Jarashow within our own Panda family. Claire is the Director of Vaccine Preventable Disease Control for Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. At our school reopening meeting, Claire recommended that our **children wear single-use 3-ply masks** to school every day or **cloth 3-ply masks** if you have time and will wash them each evening. If your child does not have a single-use 3-ply mask, they are **available at San Rafael** – just ask for one! 4-ply or greater are even better, but just make sure it is very comfortable and your child will wear it properly the entire day (ABOVE THEIR NOSE) as ensuring the mask is on correctly is the most important part of masking.

Claire has created a [short video](#) on checking mask fit. Please watch the [video](#) and let's ensure we are all doing what we can to keep San Rafael safe. Claire's son has created a [second video](#) to watch with you children.

## Outdoor Learning Initiative

By: Liliana Coronado, Panda Parent, AAPC Co-Chair, PTA Board Parliamentarian

The SRE African-American Parent Council (AAPC) took the initiative several months ago to look into creating outdoor learning spaces at our school. Through this effort, SRE joined the National COVID-19 Outdoor Learning Project and AAPC has been in regular communication with district leadership throughout the process. We recently had success getting a resolution in support of outdoor learning passed by the School Board, with Superintendent McDonald and Board Member Fredericks' help. We had great community support, including from numerous environmental and children's organizations. AAPC has teamed up with PTA and we will be discussing this initiative at the PTA meeting on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our hope is to adopt the resolution as a PTA community and form a joint committee to continue this work, composed of representatives from both AAPC and PTA. We have also been in touch with the district about bringing in large, district-approved canopies, which is in process.

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## **Stay informed! Here are some important links:**

PUSD Back to School/Announcements page:

<https://www.pusd.us/Page/9465>

Covid-19 Dashboard: updated 2X/week

[https://www.pusd.us/covid19dashboard?fbclid=IwAR37nvbmB993fL0AjGr2NaKqzNO4Jte01PiSOG797qLn\\_FKQCfjRTLYqIS4](https://www.pusd.us/covid19dashboard?fbclid=IwAR37nvbmB993fL0AjGr2NaKqzNO4Jte01PiSOG797qLn_FKQCfjRTLYqIS4)

PUSD Covid-19 Updates:

<https://www.pusd.us/Page/8628>

PUSD Covid-19 Safety Plan:

<https://www.pusd.us/Page/9232>

City of Pasadena Public Health Department Vaccine page:

<https://www.cityofpasadena.net/public-health/covid-19-vaccine/>

Vaccine appointments:

<https://myturn.ca.gov>

PUSD Testing Clinic:

8AM – 3:30PM M-F by appointment (626-396-3600 ext 88180)

Pasadena Community Testing Centers:

<https://www.cityofpasadena.net/public-health/covid-19-testing-info/>

Pasadena Education Network:

Join PEN to receive weekly emails with updated information related to PUSD.

<https://www.penfamilies.org>

Please Join Us for the First PTA Meeting of the Year

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup> at 6:30PM**

Agenda and Zoom link to follow

