

Hello TADA Families,

I hope this email finds you well. I am sure you have heard of LA County Public Health's mask update for TK-12 grades as it came out well over a week ago. As a small business who serves children, we needed some time to talk with our staff and do our due diligence in gathering more intel to make the best possible decision. We are hoping we can continue to find the silver lining as we move together through yet another transition.

Here is the announcement that came from Manhattan Beach Unified School District's Superintendent.

*...The state announced that beginning Saturday, March 12, indoor masking for students and staff in TK-12 schools and childcare settings will shift from required to strongly recommended, irrespective of vaccine status. Additionally, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) announced Monday that it will align its masking guidance with the CDPH. This coordination reflects the advocacy of more than 30 L.A. County Superintendents...*

*As such, the Manhattan Beach Unified School District will also align its masking protocols, accordingly, giving students and staff a choice when it comes to indoor and outdoor masking on campuses starting Saturday, March 12, 2022.*

After much discussion, research, and continued success following LACDPH, we are going to adhere to the TK-12 grade guidelines making masks optional Saturday, March 12<sup>th</sup>. I know many of you are thrilled to get to this point. I also know that this news can be very disheartening for some of you. Please know that we are available to talk about anything you feel you need. Please know we will continue with safety protocols as follows:

We will continue to:

- Keep our UVC lighting in our air's filtration system killing 99% of viruses that pass through
- Maintain current studio cleaning and sanitization protocols
- Keep studio doors 1, 2, and 3 open to the outside.
- Keep windows open to promote good airflow and circulation
- Encourage students to take breaks outdoors to get fresh air
- Encourage hand washing and use of sanitizer
- Expect parents to keep children home that are exhibiting ANY symptoms of illness (coughing, sneezing, fever, stomachache, etc)

What does this mean for tech and performances?

- We cannot speak with certainty yet, as this pandemic has taught us we cannot predict the future nor rely on things remaining stable. However, our goal has always been and will continue to be that our students can perform mask-less in a safe environment. Specific rules and details on how we will achieve this will come closer to tech when we receive more updates from LA County.

The following is an expert from a newsletter written by John Bowes, MBUSD Superintendent, that we'd like to echo here at TADA Stages.

*"When students and staff arrive at school on Monday, March 14, they will see many students and staff without masks and many who choose to wear a mask. It is important that everyone is respectful of each student's and staff member's individual choice as to whether to wear a mask or not. I ask all parents to discuss with their child(ren) expectations about whether or not they should wear a mask when indoors and outdoors. I also ask that parents help child(ren) to understand that they should not make assumptions about someone's personal beliefs or health status based on their mask choice and that they are expected to honor and respect everyone's choice. We also remind everyone that they should stay home if they are sick."*

Again, the education that this pandemic has taught many of us is that change is the only thing you can count on for certain. Will masks be mandated again? Maybe...maybe not. LACDPH has maintained one of the stringiest set of guidelines nationwide, and we have made a practice of following them. Whether you agree with the reasons of that success or not, we cannot deny that it has served us well thus far.

Please reach out if you need anything.

With Love and Gratitude,

*Julia Mirkovich*

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