



## **Sequoia Union Board of Trustees Special Board Meeting September 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.**

A regular meeting of the Board of the Sequoia Union Elementary School will be held at 23958 Avenue 324, Lemon Cove, CA. ***Please note those in attendance will need to follow physical distancing and wear a mask.***

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, for those requiring special assistance to access the Board meeting room, to access written documents being discussed at the Board meeting, or to otherwise participate at Board meetings, please contact the school office at (559) 564-2106 for assistance. Notification at least 48 hours before the meeting will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the Board meeting and to provide any required accommodations, auxiliary aids or services.

Documents provided to a majority of the Governing Board regarding an open session item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection in the District office located at 23958 Ave. 324, Lemon Cove, California during normal business hours and on the website at <https://www.sequoiaunion.org/>

**1. CALL TO ORDER at 6:00 pm**

**2. FLAG SALUTE**

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**4. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Board Policy #9323 allows each individual speaker three minutes for public comment. The public may choose to address the board on any non agenda item at this time, or on an agenda item at this time or at the time of the items discussion. Before making a comment, please gain recognition from the Chair and direct your comments through the Chair. Due to COVID-19, if you wish to submit a comment virtually you may do so online at <https://bit.ly/SUpubliccomment>. Comments must be submitted one hour prior to the scheduled meeting opening to ensure they will be read. The same requirements relating to the three minute limit apply to written comments also. Comments submitted after the opening of the meeting, but before adjournment will be recorded in the minutes.

**5. DISCUSSION AND REPORTS**

**5.1: CDPH K-12 School Guidance 2021-2022 Questions and Answers**

**5.2: Employee Vaccination and Testing**



**6. CLOSED SESSION**

6.1 GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54957.6 CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE: Superintendent-Principal. EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATION: S.E.T.A.,

UNREPRESENTED EMPLOYEES: Sequoia Union Classified Staff

**7. ADJOURNMENT**



# K-12 Schools Guidance 2021-2022

## Questions & Answers

9/1/2021

### Related Materials

- [2021-2022 K-12 Schools Reopening Framework and Guidance](#)
- [CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#)
- [Safe Schools for All Hub](#)

### Updates as of September 1, 2021:

- To include a question on school-based extracurricular activities.

## Vaccination

### 1. What are the benefits to being fully vaccinated for students in school?

COVID 19-vaccines are effective. They decrease the chances of getting and spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. COVID-19 vaccines help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19. Getting vaccinated yourself may also protect people around you, particularly people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

Fully vaccinated students may remain in school and avoid interruptions to in-person education, even if they are exposed to someone with COVID-19, so long as they remain without symptoms. Also, fully vaccinated students are not recommended to participate in screening testing at school.

## Masking

## **2. Why does the K-12 guidance require masks to be worn indoors?**

Masks are one of the most effective and simplest safety mitigation layers to prevent in-school transmission of COVID-19. SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, is primarily transmitted via airborne particles. Masks limit the spread of the virus in the air from infected persons and protect others exposed to these particles.

Universal masking indoors in K-12 schools is recommended by the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) and by the [CDC](#) in its Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools (updated July 27, 2021). As the CDC noted: "CDC recommends universal indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, and visitors to K-12 schools, regardless of vaccination status. Children should return to full-time in-person learning in the fall with layered prevention strategies in place."

Universal masking prevents outbreaks and permits modified quarantine under certain conditions in K-12 settings, supporting more instructional time and minimizing missed school days for students. Additionally, universal masking indoors is critical to enabling all schools to offer and provide full in-person instruction to all students without minimum physical distancing requirements at the outset of the school year.

As noted by the CDC, COVID-19 prevention strategies in K-12 schools are designed to protect people who are not fully vaccinated. Almost all K-6th graders are unvaccinated and will not be eligible for vaccines at the outset of the 2021-22 school year. Additionally, although some 7-12th grade students will be fully vaccinated by the start of the school year, many will not. As of July 22, 2021, less than 40% of Californians 12 to 17 years old were fully vaccinated.

Requiring universal masking indoors in K-12 schools also takes into account a number of other key considerations: operational barriers of tracking vaccination status in order to monitor and enforce mask wearing; the potential for increased transmission due to circulating variants; and potential detrimental effects on students of differential mask policies, which include: potential stigma, bullying, and isolation of vaccinated OR unvaccinated students, depending on the culture and attitudes in the school or surrounding community.

CDPH will continue to assess conditions on an ongoing basis, and will determine no later than November 1, 2021, whether to update mask requirements or recommendations. Indicators, conditions, and science review will include vaccination coverage status, in consideration of whether vaccines are available for children under 12, community case and hospitalization rates, outbreaks, and ongoing vaccine effectiveness against circulating variants of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, in alignment with the CDC-recommended indicators to guide K-12 school operations.

## **3. Is a doctor's note required to obtain a mask exemption? Is parental or self-attestation permitted to obtain a mask exemption?**

As per [CDPH Guidance on Face Coverings](#), "persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a mask" as well as "persons who are hearing impaired" are exempt from mask requirements.

Assessing for exemption due to a medical condition, mental health condition, disability that prevents wearing a mask, or hearing impairment is a medical determination and therefore must be made by a physician, nurse practitioner, or other licensed medical professional practicing under the license of a physician. Self-attestation and parental attestation for mask exemptions due to the aforementioned conditions do not constitute medical determinations.

Additionally, per [CDPH K-12 Guidance](#), "persons exempted from wearing a face covering due to a medical condition, must wear a non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom edge, as long as their condition permits it."

#### **4. Do masks need to be worn on school buses?**

Yes. [CDPH Face Coverings Guidance](#) requires that everyone (regardless of vaccination status) use masks on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems. In addition, [CDC's Order](#) requiring the wearing of masks by all people on public transportation conveyances also includes school buses. Passengers and drivers must wear a mask on school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems, subject to the exclusions and exemptions. More information regarding the [CDC Requirement for Face Masks on Public Transportation](#) is available on the CDC's website.

#### **5. If students take a school trip off-campus to an indoor location, do vaccinated students need to wear a mask indoors if the location they are visiting does not require fully vaccinated people to wear masks?**

If students are participating in a school event or being supervised by school staff, face mask guidance for K-12 settings must be followed regardless of location.

#### **6. Why do vaccinated teachers need to wear a mask?**

As noted by the CDC, COVID-19 prevention strategies in K-12 schools are designed to protect people who are not fully vaccinated. Many students will not be fully vaccinated by the start of the school year. Due to the potential for increased spread from highly transmissible circulating variants and that face masks remain one of the most effective and simplest safety mitigation layers, adults – including those who are fully vaccinated – in K-12 school settings are required to mask when sharing indoor spaces with students. Universal indoor masking of teachers, regardless of vaccination status, is also recommended by the [CDC](#).

CDPH will continue to assess conditions on an ongoing basis, and will determine no later than November 1, 2021, whether to update mask requirements or recommendations. Indicators, conditions, and science review will include vaccination coverage status, in consideration of whether vaccines are available for children under 12, community case and hospitalization rates,

outbreaks, and ongoing vaccine effectiveness against circulating variants of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, in alignment with the CDC-recommended indicators to guide K-12 school operations.

## Quarantine

### 7. Why does the guidance permit students with known exposures to COVID-19 to remain in-school?

Scientific research and experience from around the country demonstrate that when both parties are wearing facemasks appropriately at the time of a school-based exposure to COVID-19, in-school transmission is unlikely and students can safely continue in-person learning. When students remain in school after exposure because the student and the individual with COVID-19 were wearing masks appropriately, this is called modified quarantine. Modified quarantine involves a period of time during which students may continue in-person instruction but should refrain from all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community setting. Testing during modified quarantine provides an additional layer of safety and monitoring. Modified quarantine allows for less missed days of school and supports in-person education.

### 8. Who qualifies for modified quarantine?

Asymptomatic unvaccinated students exposed to COVID-19 may qualify for a modified quarantine, provided they meet criteria listed in the [K-12 Guidance](#).

The infected person to whom the asymptomatic unvaccinated student was exposed may be any individual in the school setting, including fellow students, teachers, or other school-based contacts. The exposure may have occurred in any school setting in which students are supervised by school staff. This includes indoor or outdoor school settings and school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems.

Note: Fully vaccinated students exposed to COVID-19 may refrain from quarantine following a known exposure if asymptomatic, per [CDPH Fully vaccinated People Recommendations](#).

### 9. What are students permitted to do during modified quarantine?

When students are attending school during modified quarantine, they continue to be required to wear masks indoors and are strongly encouraged to wear masks outdoors. They may use school buses, including buses operated by public and private school systems. They may participate in all required instructional components of the school day, except activities where a mask cannot be worn, such as while playing certain musical instruments. However, students on modified quarantine may eat meals on campus using food service recommendations provided in the [K-12](#)

[Guidance](#). As noted above, they should refrain from all extracurricular activities, including sports.

## **10. What should be the timing for twice weekly testing of students undergoing a modified quarantine? When can students on modified quarantine resume all activities?**

In general, it is recommended to test immediately after being exposed to someone with COVID-19. Subsequent testing should occur at least 3 days apart. As per Item 9 in the [K-12 Guidance](#), quarantine can end after Day 7 if a diagnostic specimen is collected after Day 5 from the date of last exposure and tests negative.

## **11. What type of test may be used to assess a person's status during quarantine or to exit quarantine?**

If a person is asymptomatic during quarantine, any FDA-approved diagnostic test is acceptable for evaluation of an individual's COVID-19 status, as noted in the [CDPH testing guidance](#). This includes antigen diagnostic tests and PCR diagnostic tests. PCR tests are preferred, but not required. For more information about test types, see the CDPH [school testing resources](#).

Collection of diagnostic specimens for asymptomatic persons during quarantine may occur in schools, healthcare settings, or other locations supervised by school or healthcare personnel. Specimens may be processed at the point-of-care (POC) or in a laboratory.

At this time, at-home testing is not recommended for evaluation of an individual's status during quarantine. CDPH is currently conducting pilot studies to further understand the utility of at-home testing.

For persons in quarantine who experience [symptoms](#), a negative result from an antigen test or POC molecular test results should be confirmed with a laboratory-based PCR test.

## **School-Based Extracurricular Activities**

### **12. Does the K-12 Guidance on School-Based Extracurricular Activities apply to non-school activities?**

For sports and recreation activities that are **not** operated or supervised by schools, or **do not** occur on a school site, the following continue to apply:

- [CDPH Guidance if you have COVID-19 symptoms](#)

- [CDPH Self-Isolation Instructions](#)
- [CDPH Face Mask Guidance](#)
- [CDPH Guidance on Vaccine Records](#)
- [CDPH Guidance on Ventilation](#)

Originally published 7/29/2021





## **California Implements First-in-the-Nation Measure to Encourage Teachers and School Staff to Get Vaccinated**

Published: Aug 11, 2021

*California continues to lead the nation in implementing vaccination strategies and measures to stop the spread of COVID-19*

SACRAMENTO – In order to best protect students and staff as California starts the school year fully in-person, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) today issued a new [public health order](#) requiring all school staff to either show proof of full vaccination or be tested at least once per week.

“To give parents confidence that their children are safe as schools return to full, in-person learning, we are urging all school staff to get vaccinated. Vaccinations are how we will end this pandemic,” said Governor Newsom. “As a father, I look forward to the start of the school year and seeing all California kids back in the classroom.”

The new policy for school staff will take effect August 12, 2021, and schools must be in full compliance by October 15, 2021. Robust and free testing resources are available to K-12 schools through the [CA K-12 schools testing program](#).

“There’s no substitute for in-person instruction, and California will continue to lead the nation in keeping students and staff safe while ensuring fully open classrooms,” said Dr. Tomás J. Aragón, CDPH Director and State Public Health Officer. “Today’s order will help the state’s continued efforts to increase vaccinations, similar to the orders encouraging state and health care workers and businesses to get vaccinated.”

In recent weeks, California has led the nation in implementing measures to slow the spread of COVID-19, including:

- **Vaccine verification for state workers.** Requires all state workers to either show proof of full vaccination or be tested at least once per week, and encourages local governments and other employers to adopt a similar protocol. Following California’s announcement, some of the [largest](#)

[California businesses and local governments followed suit](#), as did the federal government.

- **Vaccinations for health care workers.** Requires workers in health care settings to be fully vaccinated or receive their second dose by September 30, 2021.
- **Universal masking in K-12 settings.** Aligned with guidance from the CDC and American Academy of Pediatrics, California was the first state to implement universal masking in school settings to keep students and staff safe while optimizing fully in-person instruction.
- **Medi-Cal vaccination incentives.** \$350 million in incentive payments to help close the vaccination gap between Medi-Cal beneficiaries and Californians as a whole, significantly stepping up outreach in underserved communities.
- **Statewide mask recommendation.** In response to the spike in COVID-19 hospitalizations and new CDC guidance calling for masking, the state recommended mask use for indoor public settings regardless of vaccination status.

As of last week, California administered 335,009 new first doses, a 24 percent increase compared to the previous two weeks. This is a 62 percent increase compared to the week of July 5- July 11. Today's policy will help keep staff and students safe while encouraging additional vaccinations.

“Educators want to be in classrooms with their students, and the best way to make sure that happens is for everyone who is medically eligible to be vaccinated, with robust testing and multi-tiered safety measures,” said California Teachers Association President E. Toby Boyd. “Today’s announcement is an appropriate next step to ensure the safety of our school communities and to protect our youngest learners under 12 who are not yet vaccine eligible from this highly contagious Delta variant.”

“Worker-led school safety protocols have created the model for safe school reopening, and many school workers have already created similar agreements,” said SEIU Local 99 Executive Director and SEIU California Executive Board Member Max Arias. “Workers and employers sitting down at the bargaining table is the most effective way to create and implement vaccine policies for the benefit of the entire school community.”

“We want to do everything possible to protect our most vulnerable children and ensure that all children can return to school as safely as possible,” said California

State PTA President Carol Green. “We stand by our position that educators are essential workers and support the safe opening of schools to in person instruction.”

“Combining this policy with mitigation measures like masking, hand washing, and good ventilation will ensure we are doing everything possible to keep schools safe for in-person learning. We applaud the Governor’s efforts to provide a framework that works toward this goal,” said California Federation of Teachers President Jeff Freitas.

“While we hope that all employees will ultimately decide to be vaccinated, we look forward to working with the Governor’s administration on the necessary staffing and operations support required to conduct employee COVID testing in our schools,” said Association of California School Administrators President Charlie Hoffman.

“A vaccine requirement for education staff, as announced by Governor Newsom, is a necessary step, one that aligns with the science, and public health recommendations to create the safest environment possible as we reopen our campuses,” said California County Superintendents Educational Services Association President and Alameda County Superintendent of Schools L.K. Monroe.