

July 19, 2021 @ 10:14am

Everyone,

Below is a general picture of what the CDPH guidance has determined for California schools' safe return to school. This communication is designed to be an overview, so you can get a feel for the updated guidance, read it yourself, and see (in a general sense) how the upcoming 2021-2022 school year is shaping up to look different than the 2020-21 school year. As this information is continually evolving, you will receive clarification in the near future.

*\*For MJUSD employees, a second email will soon go out sharing the Cal/OSHA guidance on masks, as there are different rules for employees between when school is in session (students in school) and from when students are not on campus.*

### **CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (CDPH) GUIDANCE**

July 12, 2021

Recent evidence indicates that in-person instruction can occur safely ***without minimum physical distancing*** requirements when other mitigation strategies (e.g., **masking**) are fully implemented. This means, under the new guidance, everyone (all students and staff) is ***required*** to wear a mask ***indoors***, while students are at school and school is in session, but masks are ***optional*** for everyone ***outdoors***. The tradeoff is the state sets no minimum physical distancing (because everyone is expected to wear a mask), which permits all students the opportunity to attend school five days a week.

On July 9, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published its updated recommendations for K-12 schools. On July 12, 2021 the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) applied CDC's recommendations to California schools, in order to help K-12 schools determine plans for safe, successful, and full in-person instruction in the 2021-22 school year. This guidance is ***effective immediately*** and will be reviewed regularly by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

#### **[K-12 Guidance 2021-22 School Year \(ca.gov\)](#)**

**The foundational principle of this guidance is that all students must have access to safe and full in-person instruction and to as much instructional time as possible.** In California, the path to safe and full in-person instruction at the outset of the school year is a strong emphasis on the following **five (5) COVID-19 mitigation layers**:

1. **Vaccination** for all eligible individuals to get COVID-19 rates down throughout the community;

2. **Universal Masking** in schools (*while indoors*), which enables...
3. **NO minimum physical distancing**, allowing all students access to full in-person learning;
4. **Targeted Quarantine Practices**, keeping students in school; and
5. Access to a robust **COVID-19 testing** program as an available additional safety layer.

**What does this mean?** What is expected to be different this year from last year includes:

- Every student will have the opportunity to attend school all day, every day, 5-days a week.
- Distancing protocols will no longer be required during arrival and dismissal from school.
- Routine temperature screenings are no longer required for students when they arrive at school.
- Buses will be able to load to full capacity with mask protocols and recommended ventilation in place.
- Distancing requirements in the classroom are no longer necessary with mask protocols in place.
- At lunch time, students will go to the cafeteria with additional mitigation layers in place to eat lunch indoors and, in some circumstances, outdoors. Meals are no longer required to be prepackaged.
- A mask is the ticket to providing engagement, interaction, and learning. Again, everyone is *required* to wear a mask *indoors*, but masks are *optional* for everyone *outdoors*.

**\*According to CDPH guidelines, students and staff are still to stay home and get tested when displaying COVID-19 symptoms.**

**What is next?**

This communication is just an awareness that CDPH has issued its guidance and the general picture of how the beginning of the school year will look according to the guidance. You will receive additional information regarding **masks, vaccination, transmission, ventilation, staying home** when showing symptoms, and revisions to when and **how to quarantine** in the event of becoming a direct contact. CDPH will be releasing separate guidance in a couple of weeks regarding **band, choir, drama, and youth sports**.

Thank you for your patience as we work together toward a safe return to school.