

CDPH Masking Guidance for 2021- 2022 School Year

SAN DIEGUITO UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING – JULY 28, 2021

COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California for the 2021-2022 School Year

- ▶ On July 12, 2021, CDPH released new guidance for the upcoming school year.
- ▶ “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.”
- ▶ Guidance states emphasis on the following:
 - ▶ Vaccination for all eligible individuals to get COVID-19 rates down throughout the community;
 - ▶ Universal masking in schools, which enables no minimum physical distancing, allowing all students access to full in-person learning, and more targeted quarantine practices, keeping students in school; and
 - ▶ Access to a robust COVID-19 testing program as an available additional safety layer.

Applicability of CDPH Guidance to the District

- ▶ State Public Health Order of June 11, 2021 states: “All individuals must continue to follow the requirements in the current [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California...](#)” This Order was issued pursuant to Health and Safety Code sections 120125, 120140, 120175, 120195 and 131080.
- ▶ San Diego County Public Health Order of June 14, 2021 states: “Pursuant to Health and Safety Code section 120175.5 (b), all governmental entities in the county shall continue to take necessary measures within the governmental entity’s control to ensure compliance with State and local laws, regulations, and orders related to the control of COVID-19.”
- ▶ Cal/OSHA: “Employees in certain indoor settings must wear a face covering regardless of vaccination status if required by CDPH order. As of June 15, those indoor settings where [CDPH requires face coverings](#) include public transit, **K-12 educational facilities**, health care and long-term care settings, correctional and detention facilities, and shelters (homeless or emergency shelters and cooling centers).”

Universal Masking Requirement in New CDPH Guidance

- a. Masks are optional outdoors for all in K-12 school settings.

- b. K-12 students are required to mask indoors, with exemptions per [CDPH face mask guidance](#). Adults in K-12 school settings are required to mask when sharing indoor spaces with students.

- c. 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.

- d. Schools must develop and implement local protocols to provide a face covering to students who inadvertently fail to bring a face covering to school to prevent unnecessary exclusions.

Universal Masking Requirement in New CDPH Guidance

e. Consistent with guidance from the 2020-21 school year, **schools must develop and implement local protocols to enforce the mask requirements.** Additionally, schools **should offer alternative educational opportunities for students who are excluded from campus because they will not wear a face covering.** Note: Public schools should be aware of the requirements in AB 130 to offer independent study programs for the 2021-22 school year.

f. In limited situations where a face covering cannot be used for pedagogical or developmental reasons, (e.g., communicating or assisting young children or those with special needs) a face shield with a drape (per [CDPH guidelines](#)) can be used instead of a face covering while in the classroom as long as the wearer maintains physical distance from others. Staff must return to wearing a face covering outside of the classroom.

Universal Masking Requirement in New CDPH Guidance

- ▶ Stated Reasoning for Mask Mandate:
 - ▶ “Masks are one of the most effective measures for source control of **both** aerosols and droplets.”
 - ▶ Reduces the need for physical distancing.
 - ▶ “Permits modified quarantine practices under certain conditions...”
 - ▶ Current unknowns with variants, such as Delta variant.
 - ▶ *“Potential detrimental effects on students of differential mask policies. Detrimental effects of differential mask policies include: potential stigma, bullying, isolation of vaccinated OR unvaccinated students, depending on the culture and attitudes in the school or surrounding community.”*
- ▶ CDPH notes in the Guidance that it will continue to assess conditions on an ongoing basis, and will determine no later than November 1, 2021, whether to update mask requirements in school settings.