



FULLERTON JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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December 14, 2021

Good Afternoon FJUHS Community,

During the past couple of weeks there have been several new updates and announcements regarding masking requirements, indoor athletics, and comments made by Governor Newsom regarding COVID. Below is some information to help clarify the updates and announcements, along with links to corresponding websites.

We understand that we continue to live in an ever-changing world due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and FJUHS remains committed to keeping everyone safe and informed as we continue to navigate these changes together.

Updated Guidance for Use of Face Coverings

On December 13, 2021, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued the following update regarding Guidance for Use of Face Coverings

“Masks are required for all individuals in all indoor public settings, regardless of vaccination status from December 15, 2021 through January 15, 2022.”

This updated guidance was issued as a result of an increase in COVID-19 cases and as a precaution against the Omnicron variant. *“The rate of COVID-19 infections in California has jumped 47% since Thanksgiving to more than 14 cases per 100,000 people,”* according to Dr. Mark Ghaly, Secretary of the California Health & Human Services Agency.

The District will continue to maintain the current masking requirement for all indoor events and classroom education that has been in place at all District sites since the beginning of the 2021/2022 school year.

The links below will provide additional information:

[California Department of Public Health - Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#)

[Article in Reuters: California to reinstitute statewide mask mandate amid rise in COVID cases](#)

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Indoor Athletics

A few weeks ago, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) updated its guidance on masking and extracurricular activities. After a review of the CDPH guidance, the Orange County Healthcare Agency (OCHCA) updated their guidance in regards to masking and testing of athletes to align more closely to that of CDPH. The District has and will continue to do what is in the best interest of our students and families in accordance with the guidance and directives from the local and state government. The District has made numerous accommodations for staff members and students with regard to testing methods for those that have been specified to test weekly.

In accordance with this latest information from both the OCHCA and CDPH, along with yesterday's announcement on indoor mask requirements, FJUHSD will continue to maintain the current masking requirement for all indoor events and classroom education. Additionally, FJUHSD staff members are currently reaching out to OCHCA officials to determine if there are any new testing/masking options for indoor athletes based on the recent updates. We will send more information regarding any updates after we return from Winter Break. [K-12 Guidance 2021-22 School Year](#)

Update on Student Vaccination Mandate

In October, when Governor Newsom announced his plans for a phased-in approach requiring K-12 students to get vaccinated against COVID-19, it was widely noted that personal belief exemptions would be allowed as long as the regulation is outside of the legislative process. On December 8, 2021, Governor Newsom affirmed the state's desire to keep students in school and said exemptions remain an option for families who choose not to vaccinate their children should a mandate take effect:

"The mandate that we put in place for the state of California includes personal exemptions, not just religious and/or medical exemptions, so there's plenty of latitude for families to make decisions," <https://newsroom.ocde.us/coronavirus-update/>

Currently, there are no plans by FJUHSD to implement any vaccine mandates during the current 2021-2022 school year. However, we will be watching closely, and updating you should there be any changes by state officials.

Thank you for taking the time to read this important message.

Fullerton Joint Union High School District Covid Team