



FULLERTON JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

1051 West Bastanchury Road • Fullerton, California 92833

Office of the Superintendent

(714) 870-2801

smclaughlin@fjuhsd.org

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Dear FJUHSD Staff Members, Students, and Parents/Guardians,

Let me start off by saying what an honor it is to be appointed Superintendent of FJUHSD. This school district has a long history of providing a well-rounded and rigorous educational program to its communities provided by dedicated teachers, certificated, classified, and administrative staff members. Over the past year and a half, FJUHSD, along with all others across the nation, experienced a challenging school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the many challenges, the staff and community banded together to ensure that teaching and learning continued to take place, while also offering additional support such as school lunches and social emotional support resources.

Entering into this school district as a new Superintendent, I feel extremely fortunate to be working alongside the Board of Trustees, and all of the approximately 1,200 staff members as we get ready to begin a new school year on August 16, 2021. As we prepare for a more “normal” return to school, you will continue to receive information from the school district and/or school regarding more specifics as to upcoming registration dates, safety protocols, and how to start the school year successfully.

Below are several recent updates from the California Department of Health as they relate to health and safety requirements related to schools. We will continue to keep you informed should anything change.

Last week the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) released updated [COVID-19 requirements for K-12 schools](#) for the beginning of the 2021-2022 school year. COVID-19 health regulations are determined by state and county health officials, and schools/school districts are required to follow these in order to provide in-person instruction.

FJUHSD is reviewing the new CDPH regulations to determine how it will impact the 2021-2022 school year, which begins with students returning to school on Monday, August 16, 2021. Listed below are some the key components of the CDPH’s updated regulations which all schools and school districts, including private and charter schools, will have to implement in order to provide in-person instruction:

- California will continue to require masks to be worn by both students and adults in school settings when in the presence of students. Regardless of vaccination status. Masks are optional outdoors for students and adults in K-12 school settings.
- Schools and school districts must develop and implement local protocols to enforce mask requirements. Students who do meet one of the mask exception criteria and who do

comply with the universal mask wearing guidance may be placed in an alternative learning setting.

- Physical distancing is no longer required as a result of the universal masking requirements. Without universal masking in place, physical distancing would limit the number of students in a classroom and not allow students to return to school everyday for the full school day.
- Schools and school districts must continue to implement mitigation and layered prevention strategies like increased ventilation, hand washing, respiratory etiquette, staying home when sick and/or getting COVID-19 tested, contact tracing in combination with quarantine and isolation, and regular cleaning and disinfection.
- CDPH will continue to assess conditions on an ongoing basis and will determine if and when mask requirements can be updated.

This new information provides clarity on what is required for schools to reopen in California and helps FJUHSD prepare for reopening on August 16, 2021. The FJUHSD team has been hard at work preparing for the 2021-2022 school year to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of students, staff, and families is at the forefront.

FJUHSD will resume a traditional, full-time, on-campus learning model for the 2021-2022 school year while continuing to follow all guidance as set forth by CDPH and the Orange County Healthcare Agency (OCHA). Students and families will also have access to alternate instructional programs in the fall including the [iSierra Online Academy independent study program](#) offered through La Sierra High School.

FJUHSD appreciates your continued support and partnership as we review and implement the new CDPH guidance. We also appreciate your understanding that the FJUHSD School Board and District administration are not permitted to lessen and must implement the requirements in schools as outlined by the California Department of Public Health. The CDPH has a “Contact Us” link for any questions you may have regarding this guidance, which can be found at http://www.cdph.ca.gov/Pages/contact_us.aspx.

Please be on the lookout for additional updates from FJUHSD regarding the 2021-2022 school year.

Sincerely,



Steve McLaughlin, Ed.D.
Superintendent