



FULLERTON JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Office of the Superintendent

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January 7, 2022

Dear FJUHSD Families and Students,

Happy New Year! We hope everyone has had a positive and healthy return to school this week. We want to thank all of you for flexibility during these ever-changing times, and for your understanding as we adjust some of our activities. Our students are in class, learning and following their regular daily schedules and routines. We understand some of our students are experiencing more substitute teachers than usual and we have put in contingency plans to ensure all students are supervised and lessons move forward.

Additionally, we continue to carefully monitor our athletics events as well as co-curricular and extracurricular activities to ensure we keep everyone safe. We appreciate everyone's understanding of any events that have been postponed. We are monitoring all activities daily and our goal is to resume postponed activities when it is safe to do so. As we move through the next days and weeks, we would like to reassure you that we are closely monitoring COVID-19 and the Omicron variant daily, and want to take this moment to provide a few updates.

FJUHSD continues to follow directives and guidance of public health officials from the Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) in response to COVID-19 and its variants. Currently, the directives and recommendations are for the continued use of masks, rapid contact tracing, and testing of staff and students who participate in indoor athletics who have not presented proof of being fully vaccinated. We also continue to utilize Qualtrics as a daily screening tool for staff and students districtwide.

We deeply appreciate everyone's collective efforts. FJUHSD will continue to manage this situation in a thoughtful and safe manner to ensure the highest levels of safety for our staff, families, and students. We hope everyone had a great first week and we look forward to a successful second semester for all of our students.

Sincerely,

Steve McLaughlin, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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Stay Updated

Please follow our social media accounts for the latest updates:

Instagram: fullerton_joint_union_hsd

Twitter: @fjuhsd

Facebook: Fullerton Joint Union High School District

Website: www.fjuhsd.org

No Vaccine 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 FJUHSO 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.

Mask Requirements

When masks are worn, all persons should optimize mask fit and filtration, ideally through the use of surgical masks or KN95 protective masks. KN95 protective masks will be made available for staff members at each District site for staff members to wear while on site. All staff and students must wear masks while indoors during all school activities and events. A statewide mask order [was reinstated in mid-December](#) and was originally set to be reevaluated January 15, 2022. But given the sharp rise in infections and hospitalizations, it will be in place through at least February 15, 2022 said Dr. Mark Ghaly, California's Health and Human Services Secretary. [The mandate](#) applies to residents regardless of their vaccination status.

Updated Isolation/Quarantine Guidelines

Persons Testing Positive: CDPH and OCHCA state: Persons testing positive with COVID are to self-isolate for 5 days and may return to work/school if symptoms are improving and after they have taken a COVID test (antigen preferred) on or after day 5 with a negative result. If the person does not test, the isolation period is 10 days. All persons must wear a mask at all times for 10 days after symptom onset, except to eat.

Close Contacts: Persons who are close contacts, if up-to-date fully vaccinated and asymptomatic, follow the same measures. Persons who are close contacts, not fully vaccinated and who do not test, quarantine for 10 days. Persons monitor for symptoms for 14 days & Close Contacts wear a mask for 10 days; it is ok to remove your mask to eat.

[Updated CDPH Guidance \(12/20/21\)](#)

Postponement of Non-Essential Activities

As a reminder, we have postponed any non-essential curricular and co-curricular activities such as assemblies, team dinners, and our upcoming Open Houses through the month of January. This is a temporary pause on these types of events and will help us in maintaining the activities directly related to our current curricular, athletic, performing arts, and other school-specific activities. Please contact your school site principal for additional clarification. We will do everything we can to make sure activities that can happen, will happen, and activities that are postponed can be rescheduled.

Updated Guidance for Large Events

New guidance from the California Department of Public Health will lower the threshold for what is considered a “Mega Event,” a designation that triggers added safety protocols. Starting January 15, 2022, the new guidelines for a Mega Event will be defined as a gathering or activity that draws more than 500 attendees indoors (reduced from 1,000) or 5,000 attendees outdoors (reduced from 10,000), according to CDPH guidance posted on December 31st. We are currently working with our site administrators to provide protocols for attendance at our indoor events to ensure capacity is maintained below 500 attendees. “Ongoing vigilance is necessary to protect against COVID-19,” the CDPH guidance says. “This continues to be the case for large, indoor events, which have the potential to cause large, substantial, and severe outbreaks.” The latest Mega Event guidance can be found on the [California Department of Public Health website](#).

Update - Free At-Home COVID-19 Test Kits for K-12 Students

As was announced prior to Winter Break, each student will be allocated a free at-home COVID-19 testing kit from CDPH. These are for voluntary use at home to provide assurance to students who may be experiencing symptoms or concerns over potential exposure. These test kits are optional and provide an alternative to other testing methods. FJUHSD will not be monitoring the test outcomes but will be available to provide resources and respond to any positive result. As of this notification FJUHSD has only received 40% of our total order, and will be providing an update on the allocation of these tests next week.

Other COVID-19 Testing Options

<https://occovid19.ochealthinfo.com/covid-19-testing>

Vaccination Opportunities within Orange County

SSA Central Office
2020 W. Walnut St. Santa Ana, CA 92703: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

OCC Ronnenberg Center
2701 Fairview Rd. Costa Mesa, CA 92626: 8:30 - 4:30 p.m.

St. Anthony's Church
1450 E. La Palma. Anaheim, CA 92805: 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Gilbert High School
1800 W. Ball Rd. Anaheim, CA 95804: 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.