

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Governor's Vaccine Mandate Update

Dear El Dorado Union High School District Community,

With the recent announcement of Governor Newsom's mandate for the COVID-19 vaccine for all students and staff once fully approved by the FDA, there are a number of significant concerns about the timeline and process for this requirement as evidenced by Monday's Statewide protest.

The Governor's staff has informed school districts that they see this mandate taking effect at the earliest date in July 2022, and between now and that date, there will be many critical moments where the Board and community can constructively voice their opinions and show their support or displeasure.

There are three avenues on addressing the COVID-19 vaccine mandate currently being pursued in Sacramento which we will all want to carefully monitor in the coming months.

The first is that the Governor's mandate for vaccines utilizes State health and safety codes which require the allowance for religious, personal and medical exemptions. Once the vaccine is fully approved by the FDA, then the rulemaking for these exemptions would commence allowing for significant Board and community input.

Secondly, there is discussion of a legislative effort in the form of a yet to be introduced bill that would add the COVID-19 vaccine to the list of required vaccines for students. The bill has not been written or introduced at this time, but we will carefully monitor the situation, as we know it is coming.

Below are the names, titles, email addresses and phone numbers of the State decision makers where you can share your perspective on this vitally important issue.

Gavin Newsom	California Governor	(916) 445-2841	gavin.newsom@gov.ca.gov Or govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov40mail/
Toni Atkins	Senate President Pro Tempore	(916) 651-4039	senator.atkins@senate.ca.gov
Nick Hardeman	Chief of Staff	(916) 651-4039	nick.hardeman@senate.ca.gov
Anthony Rendon	CA State Assembly Speaker	(916) 319-2063	assemblymember.rendon@assembly.ca.gov
Richard Pan	California State Senator	(916) 651-4006	senator.pan@senate.ca.gov
Dr. Sohil Sud	California Department of Public Health	(916) 558-1784	sohil.sud@cdph.ca.gov
Kevin Kiley	California State Assembly Member	(916) 319-2006	assemblymember.kiley@assembly.ca.gov

Thirdly, there is a belief by some that California has overstepped its lawful authority. As a result, a number of legal challenges to this mandate are expected. Of course the conclusion of these decisions will take some time for us to comprehend.

Few issues have generated such division within our communities as a COVID-19 vaccine mandate. What started two weeks ago will take time to become clear as many details will change and issues will be clarified, similar to what we have seen during this entire pandemic. On an issue of such great importance, we do not want to be rash and impulsive but rather studied and thoughtful in how we respond. This issue will be shaped and addressed by patience, not speed.

To the community, I am confident that the Board will contemplate taking action at some critical point when more information is known, to ensure that as religious, personal and medical exemptions are allowed, the District will in fact honor those exemptions consistent with legal guidance.

I am equally confident that the District will not take any action on its own to require a vaccine mandate for students or staff as some other districts across the State have done or are contemplating. We do note we are obligated to follow the law on one hand, and also note we will vigorously be sharing and advocating our perspective on the other.

To the community, thank you for considering the best ways to voice your opinions and thoughts to key decision makers, and we will be working diligently to help ensure that we understand the nuances of each path and work together to keep schools open for all students and staff.

Sincerely,

Ron Carruth, Ed.D.
Superintendent