

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Vaccine Mandate

Last Friday Governor Gavin Newsom announced a student vaccination mandate which would require COVID-19 vaccinations for both public and private California students and staff once the vaccine is fully authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for each respective age group.

We are told the earliest the mandate would likely take effect is July 1, 2022 for students in grades 9-12 as well as staff. This sudden announcement has generated many questions. We are being told that the California Department of Public Health will initiate the rulemaking process and write regulations which will address details surrounding the requirements such as the process and scope of medical and religious exemptions. Public comments to the California Department of Public Health will be established in Sacramento.

We realize there are many in our community who are very concerned about this development and others that support the decision. Some have asked if our Board of Trustees or County have any local decision making authority in this matter. The answer is no. The District is subject to the State of California and we are obligated to comply with those decisions whether we agree or not. Like any person or entity, we can share our perspective with the California Department of Public Health as they set up the public hearing process. As further details become available, we will share them with all of you so that we can keep you informed. In short, it appears the COVID-19 vaccination would be listed along with the other State mandated vaccines. Due to the likely implementation date, we have time to understand the announcement and the eventual guidance. We will share further information with you as details emerge.