

County Executive
Ann Edwards

Deputy County Executive
Bruce Wagstaff
Social Services



Department of Health Services
Chevon Kothari, Director

Divisions
Behavioral Health Services
Primary Health
Public Health
Departmental Administration

County of Sacramento

DATE: October 7, 2021
TO: School Superintendents and School Leaders
FROM: Olivia Kasirye, MD, MS, Public Health Officer *Olivia Kasirye MD*
SUBJECT: State of California COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements for K-12 Schools

On October 1, 2021, the State of California announced that **all students at public, charter, and private K-12 schools** in California will be required to be vaccinated for COVID-19, starting the school term following full FDA approval of the vaccine for their grade span. The California Department of Public Health will add the COVID-19 vaccine to other vaccinations required for in-person school attendance. This mandate will impact both students and school staff.

STUDENTS

The new mandate will be phased in by grade span (K-6 and 7-12). Implementation will begin with grades 7-12, starting the term following full FDA vaccine approval for ages 12 and older. Current projections are for the mandate to apply to grades 7-12 **starting on July 1, 2022**. Implementation for grades K-6 would likely occur at a later date, depending on timing of full FDA vaccine approval for ages 5 to 11. This mandate will be a condition of in-person attendance. A student who is not vaccinated may remain enrolled in independent study, but may not attend in-person instruction.

STAFF

The Governor has also directed that adults be held to at least the same standards as students. All school staff will be required to be vaccinated no later than when the requirement takes effect for students. The current verify-or-test requirement for staff will be converted to a vaccine mandate no later than when the first phase of the student requirement becomes effective.

EXEMPTIONS

Requirements established by regulation, not legislation, must be subject to exemptions "for both medical reasons and personal beliefs." It is unclear at this time if the California legislature will pursue legislation to remove the 'personal beliefs' exemption option for COVID-19 vaccines.

LOCAL/DISTRICT MANDATES

Sacramento County Public Health has no plans to implement an accelerated local mandate; however, individual school districts or schools may choose to implement their own mandates.

Division of Public Health
Olivia Kasirye, MD, MS
Public Health Officer



7001-A East Parkway, Suite 600A
Sacramento, CA 95823
phone (916) 875-5881
fax (916) 854-9709
www.scph.com