

February 28, 2022

Dear CUSD,

Today, California Governor Gavin Newsom and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) announced the statewide timeline for public schools that will lift the mandatory masking mandate for both vaccinated and unvaccinated students. The announcement included the following key points:

- The statewide school indoor mask mandate will expire for all students, regardless of vaccination status, at the end of the day on Friday, March 11.
- Monday, March 14 will be the first school day with no state requirement.
- County public health officers and local education agencies may still impose rules more stringent than the state.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, CUSD has followed CDPH guidance and adhered to mandates. We will continue to follow current guidelines.

We appreciate and acknowledge that lifting the mask requirement may cause anxiety for some people, especially those who are at higher risk for Covid or live with someone who is immunocompromised. Please note that mask wearing remains strongly recommended by the state and will remain an option for every student or staff member who wishes to wear one.

We also recognize that there are others who do not support masking in schools and believe that mask requirements should end immediately. Our decision to adhere to CDPH guidelines - no more, no less - has enabled us to continue in-person learning during the pandemic.

An explanation on the rationale for lifting mask requirements and the new guidance/implementation timeline can be found [here](#).

As we navigate out of the pandemic and into the endemic phase of Covid, we appeal to everyone in our school community to respect one another and act with compassion, civility, and understanding of individual perspectives and choice. Please keep the following in mind:

- On 3/14, masking in schools is optional and a personal choice. Respect each other's choices.
- Those at risk for severe disease, or living with someone who is, can and should continue to wear masks.
- Teachers may discuss the change with students in a developmentally appropriate manner, including how to respect everyone's personal choice.
- If your child(ren) expresses any anxiety, feel free to reach out to our school counselors for additional support as needed.
- Students and staff should continue to remain home when sick.
- Students and staff are encouraged to take a COVID-19 test if exhibiting symptoms and/or if they have a known exposure to COVID-19.

We appreciate your continued patience and understanding as we continue to move forward. Though the mask mandate is ending soon, our mitigation strategies (monitoring symptoms, testing, ventilation, etc.) will continue to be a priority.

Respectfully,

Karl J Mueller
Superintendent