

Fact Sheet
COVID-19 Vaccination Mandate For California Schools (10/20/21)

- School leaders are obligated to implement and follow state Health and Safety Code requirements, laws and regulations, and vaccination requirements under sections 120325 - 120380 of the California Health and Safety Code.
- School boards, district and school administrators, principals, teachers, and staff are **not** involved in this process or decision-making.
- The California Department of Public Health will initiate the rulemaking process and write regulations that will address requirements such as the process and scope of medical and personal exemptions.
- Current immunization requirements (diphtheria, hepatitis B, haemophilus influenzae type B, measles, mumps, pertussis, poliomyelitis, rubella, tetanus, and chicken pox) were approved through a legislative process, not a governor's mandate.
- Public comments to the California Department of Public Health will be collected at the state level in Sacramento. If community members have opinions they want to share or provide input on the rulemaking process associated with this new mandate, please direct those to the California Department of Public Health.
- The mandate has an anticipated date of January 1, 2022, or July 1, 2022, for children ages 12 and over. The vaccine must first have full FDA approval, and then the requirement to be vaccinated goes into effect at the start of the following semester.
- At this time TK-12 educational leaders are being told that exemptions will be available for families who do not wish to have their children vaccinated. Vaccine exemptions are not yet applicable because the proposed mandate has not yet taken effect. It's anticipated these exemptions will include medical and personal belief. If an exemption waiver is completed correctly and submitted, the student can attend school in person.
- Students that opt-out of receiving the vaccine and do not complete an exemption waiver will not be allowed to attend school in person after the mandate goes into effect.
- Unless the legislature changes the list of mandatory vaccines for TK-12 students by adding the COVID-19 vaccine as a mandatory vaccine, the personal belief exemption may be used by families. The personal belief exemption covers religious exemption. If the COVID-19 vaccine for TK-12 students is approved by legislature, then the only available exemption will be medical.
- We cannot predict actions such as the Governor's proposed student vaccine mandate. We are committed to keeping all of our employees and families informed when we have more information to share.