



Student Vaccination Mandate Talking Points

- Governor Newsom’s proposed mandate for 7-12th grade students to be vaccinated against COVID-19 is not currently in effect. **The mandate cannot go into effect until the vaccine has full U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval for specific age groups of students.**
- The mandate has an anticipated implementation date of **January 1, 2022, or July 1, 2022**, for children ages 12 and over. The vaccine requirement would go into effect at the start of the semester following the vaccine’s full approval by the FDA.
- The California Department of Public Health will initiate the rulemaking process and write regulations that address requirements such as the process and scope of medical and personal exemptions.
- OUSD’s school board, district and school administrators, principals, teachers, and staff are **not** involved in the process or decision-making of the Governor or California Department of Public Health.
- **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.**
- Current immunization requirements (diphtheria, hepatitis B, haemophilus influenzae type B, measles, mumps, pertussis, poliomyelitis, rubella, tetanus, and chickenpox) were approved through a legislative process, not a governor’s mandate.
- Public comments to the California Department of Public Health will be established in Sacramento. If community members have opinions they want to share or input to provide on the rulemaking process associated with this new mandate, please direct them to the California Department of Public Health: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Pages/contact_us.aspx
- 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.
- **Exemptions for student COVID-19 vaccines are not yet applicable because the proposed mandate has not yet taken effect.** It’s anticipated these exemptions will

include medical and personal beliefs. If an exemption waiver is completed correctly and granted, the student can attend school in person. *

- Families with students who opt-out of receiving the vaccine and do not have an exemption waiver in place will not be allowed to attend school in person after the mandate goes into effect.
- 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.
- Our latest news and updates are available on the OUSD website, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

*Unless 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 legislature approves the COVID-19 vaccine for TK-12 students, then the only available exemption will be medical.

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