



Masking in California & SSFUSD Presentation

3.10.22





CDPH Guidance for Schools (Based on Science & Medical data)

- Masks have been one of the main strategies that have been required up to this point. A lot of data shows efficacy of mask wearing
- CA = 12% of student population in U.S. and 1% of school closures
- Now masks are moving to *Strongly Recommended*



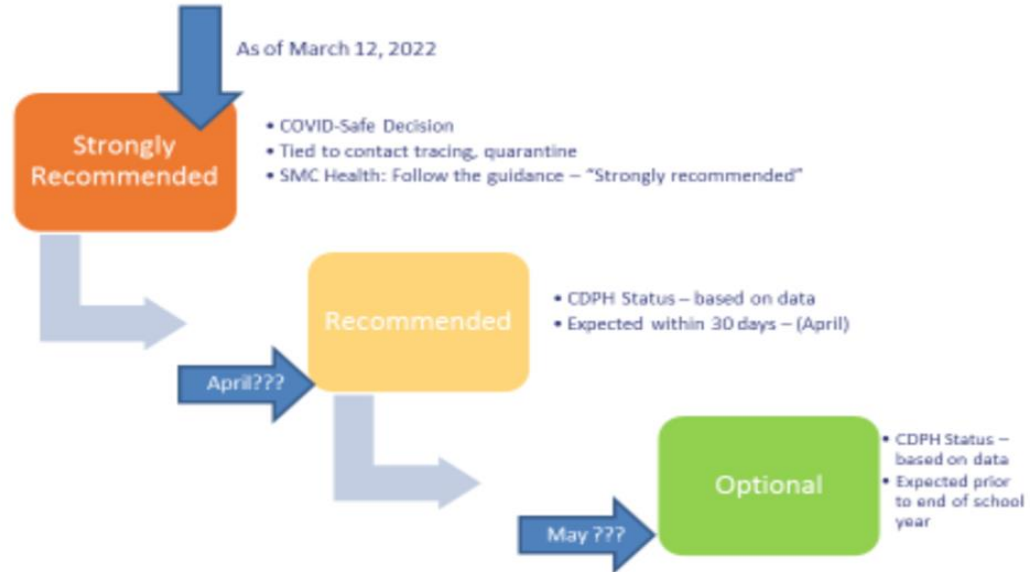
Masking Changes

- On February 28, 2022, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) released updated masking guidance for schools. Under the new guidance, the universal masking requirement for K-12 and childcare settings will terminate after March 11, 2022.
- However, CDPH **strongly recommends** that individuals in these settings, which includes students, teachers and others, continue to mask while indoors in school settings after the universal masking requirement ends.
- According to research cited by the CDPH, “the masking requirement in California schools has allowed us to keep schools open when compared to other parts of the country.” California accounts for roughly 12% of all U.S. students but accounted for only 1% of COVID-19 related school closures during the Omicron surge.
- Strongly recommended = everyone should continue to wear masks



New Mask Guidance

New Mask Guidance





Rationale for Maintaining Masks in Schools

Rationale for Maintaining Masks in Schools

Strongly Recommended

- Other COVID protocols are intertwined with mask wearing
- Protects unvaccinated students and those with vulnerable health
- "People **should** continue to wear masks indoors. They don't have to, but they should." San Mateo County Health
- Waning protection of vaccination for 5-11 year olds – Report released yesterday



Recommended

- CDPH Status – based on data
- Expected within 30 days – (April)



Optional

- CDPH Status – based on data
- Expected prior to end of school year



Future Anticipated State and Local Changes

- Anticipate changes in protocols, for example quarantining protocols, etc.
- Anticipate changes in testing models; likely will be testing after exposure and after symptoms and less of a screening model



SSFUSD Considerations

- SSFUSD has always followed state and local guidance in making health/science determinations for the students and staff.
- The change in masking guidance reflects the CDPH's approach to rolling back safety measures now that COVID conditions have improved across the state. According to CDPH, these decisions are based on science and data, including case and hospitalization rates.
- Imposing a mandate means that we will need to consider consequences for those not following the local requirement. The challenge will be with enforcement.



SSFUSD Considerations - Con't

- Informal assessment across San Mateo County Schools is indicative of adherence to the CDPH of “strongly recommended” on March 14, 2022.
- If we determine to follow CDPH with no local mandate and focus on a strongly recommended transition, we can continue to message, support and encourage mask wearing on campus (For all intended purposes, strongly recommended is designed to convey that all individuals should continue masking in schools).
- SSFUSD can continue to offer pooled testing for all staff and students as an extra layer of protection for our community.



SSFUSD Proposals & Recommendations

SSFUSD recommends we follow CDPH guidelines and transition from required masking in SSFUSD to “strongly recommend” masking, but not immediately. This will give the district the opportunity to assess the impact and potential surge in covid cases after spring break. Below are proposed potential options and transition dates for the board to consider.

Possible transition dates:

- April 11, 2022 (one week after spring break)
- April 19, 2022 (two weeks after spring break)
- May 2, 2022 (approximately one month after spring break)
- End of the school year and transition in our summer school programs



SSFUSD Proposals & Recommendations

Other possible options:

- Hybrid model - can have different requirements for the employees vs. the students
- Hybrid model - can require masking for all elementary aged students and strongly recommend at the secondary level
- Other options?

*SSFUSD will be distributing testing kits to all staff and students prior to spring break to support the safe return to school.

