



Proposed COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate for K-12 Students

- **In all likelihood, the proposed COVID-19 vaccine mandate for K-12 students would take effect no earlier than July 1, 2022, meaning its initial impact would be for the 2022–2023 school year.**
- The proposed mandate would not take effect until the school term following Food and Drug Administration (FDA) full vaccine approval for student age groups (5-11 and 12+). Currently, the vaccine has received FDA emergency use authorization for children 5 and older, which is not the same as full approval.
- The proposed mandate was established by regulation instead of legislation and must, therefore, allow for a personal belief exemption. Current immunization requirements for school enrollment were approved through a legislative, not regulative, process.
- The California Department of Public Health will initiate the rulemaking process and write regulations that will address the process and scope of exemptions.
- School boards, district and school administrators, teachers, and staff cannot predict actions such as the governor’s student vaccine mandate, and have no authority or influence concerning decisions made at the state level.
- District leaders, regardless of any personally held opinion either for or against the vaccine mandate, 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.
- CUSD leaders will continue to focus on areas over which we do have authority, which include providing safe and effective learning environments, supporting students’ academic and social-emotional well-being, and keeping families and staff informed of school-related issues, including the proposed vaccine mandate, as new information becomes available.
- Members of the public who wish to have their voices heard regarding the proposed vaccine mandate can do so most directly by contacting the California Department of Public Health (https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Pages/contact_us.aspx) or their state legislators.