



## July 20, 2021

### Mask Guidance Update

Dear SVUSD Community,

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the health and safety of students, staff, and our community has been the highest priority of Saddleback Valley Unified School District. From the onset in March 2020, the District followed and continues to follow guidance from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), CAL/OSHA, and the Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA) regarding masks and other COVID-19 mitigation protocols. As a public agency, SVUSD is required to follow CDPH guidance.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) last week released [updated guidance for K-12 schools](#). The new guidance reflects updates made to the [K-12 schools' guidance](#) from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). For the 2021-22 school year, SVUSD is required to follow the guidelines and recommendations issued by CAL/OSHA, CDPH, and OCHCA. These guidelines include the requirement for all students and adults to wear masks while inside on a K-12 school campus. While outside, students are not required to wear masks. OCHCA, in conjunction with the Orange County Department of Education, recently [released a letter](#) outlining the requirements for Orange County school districts.

The CDPH stated that it will continue to assess conditions and will determine no later than November 1, 2021 whether to update or eliminate mask requirements or recommendations in schools. If you would like to advocate further, the CDPH website and contact information is available at: [https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Pages/contact\\_us.aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Pages/contact_us.aspx). The website and contact information for the Governor's Office is: <https://govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov40mail/>

On Thursday, June 24, 2021, the Board of Education adopted [Resolution No. 23:20-21](#) requesting that the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) remove the mask mandate when safe to do so and allow masks to be optional for SVUSD schools.

In addition to masking, the District will continue to utilize a variety of COVID-19 mitigation measures in the 2021-22 school year, including:

- Air purifiers in every classroom and regular HVAC maintenance and inspections
- Nightly sanitation and disinfecting at school sites
- Outdoor hand washing stations, classroom hand washing and hand sanitizing stations, and hand sanitizing stations throughout campus

- Use of outdoor and flexible learning spaces to provide students opportunities to remove masks
- Contact tracing and reporting

As we have done throughout the pandemic, we will continue to keep you informed as updates become available.

Thank you,

Crystal Turner, Ed. D.  
Superintendent