

COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate - Frequently Asked Questions

**This document was published on November 15, 2021, and was most recently updated on April 27, 2022. The FAQ will continue to be updated as new information becomes available.*

BACKGROUND: On October 1, Governor Gavin Newsom announced a student vaccination mandate which would require COVID-19 vaccinations **for both public and private California students and staff** once the vaccine is fully authorized by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for each respective age group. We will share further information with you as details emerge.

Below are some of the most frequently asked questions the Conejo Valley Unified School District has received regarding the new vaccination requirement. Responses are based on a summary found in the Governor's Press Release and information gathered from educational associations in the State. The CVUSD will continue to keep you apprised of the latest developments as we receive more information from the California Department of Public Health.

1. Is the CVUSD currently mandating the COVID-19 Vaccine?

RESPONSE: No. The mandate for students to be vaccinated is **not yet in effect**. The mandate **cannot** go into effect until the vaccine has **full FDA approval** for specific age groups of students. The CVUSD will enact requirements based on the state's timelines.

2. When does the COVID-19 vaccine mandate go into effect? *(Updated 4/27/22)*

RESPONSE: The COVID-19 vaccination mandate is NOT currently in effect for any of our students. On Thursday, April 14, 2022 the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) announced the statewide requirement for K-12 students to be vaccinated against COVID-19 will be delayed at least until the 2023-24 school year.

- California had initially intended to require student vaccinations for the 2022-23 school year, but that was contingent on the FDA fully approving the vaccine for most students. Since it's not known when the FDA will grant full approval, CDPH says health officials and schools will need more time for successful implementation of new vaccine requirements.
- **Therefore, based on this announcement, the COVID-19 vaccine will not be a requirement for CVUSD students for the 2022-23 school year.**
- Please read the complete [Statement on Timeline for COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements in Schools from the CDPH here](#).
- CDPH continues to emphasize and conduct outreach regarding the safety and effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine. Information about COVID-19 vaccination options in Ventura County is available at: www.venturacountyrecovers.org/vaccine-information.



3. Do school districts have to enforce the state’s vaccine mandate when it goes into effect?

RESPONSE: The state legislature has expressly authorized the CDPH to issue mandatory public health directives carrying the force of law to prevent the spread of diseases, like COVID-19, and the vaccine mandate was issued pursuant to that authority. A school district would be in violation of its legal obligation if it failed to follow the mandate and such failure could result in substantial legal, financial, and other risks.

4. Will there be exemptions for the COVID-19 vaccine requirement?

RESPONSE: In his announcement about the student vaccine mandate, Governor Newsom said that there would be personal belief and medical exemptions in place for the COVID-19 vaccine. These exemptions would allow families to opt-out of the vaccine for their students, and a personal exemption does not require approval. This is different from the current list of required vaccines needed by all students attending public, private or charter schools in California. Please note, these exemptions for the COVID-19 vaccine can only be removed if the California State Legislature takes action to remove them through new legislation or the governor himself makes adjustments.

5. What will the exemption process look like?

RESPONSE: The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) will outline the scope of exemptions during its “rulemaking process” upon full approval by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of a vaccine for age groups within each of the grade spans.

6. Will CVUSD host vaccination clinics for students during the school day?

RESPONSE: NO, the CVUSD has no plans (current or future) to establish vaccine clinics on our school campuses during school hours.

The District has previously partnered with Ventura County Public Health to host community-wide vaccination clinics in CVUSD school parking lots, these events have always occurred on the weekend and/or during non-pupil days, with zero requirement for age-eligible CVUSD students to attend these clinics. It is more than likely the CVUSD will continue to hold these events (weekends and pupil free days) for interested families.

Per the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), minors must have consent from their legal parent/guardians to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Options for consent are outlined in [this November 3, 2021 memo, “Pfizer Vaccine Minor Consent Guidance,” from the CDPH.](#)

7. Who is involved in the decision-making process regarding the COVID-19 vaccine requirement in schools?

RESPONSE: As a public district, we are obligated to implement and follow state Health and Safety Code requirements, laws and regulations, and the vaccination requirement, which

falls under sections 120325 - 120380 of the California Health and Safety Code. **Our school board, district 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 which will address details surrounding the requirements such as the process and scope of medical and personal exemptions.