



Divisions

Behavioral Health Services
Primary Health
Public Health
Departmental Administration

County of Sacramento

July 20, 2021

Dear School Superintendents,

On July 12, 2021, the California Department of Public Health released [COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California for the 2021-22 School Year](#). This guidance, which is effective immediately, prioritizes providing all students “access to safe and full in-person instruction.” Minimum distancing requirements for schools have been eliminated, but under this guidance, masks are required indoors for all students in grades K-12. [CDPH Face Covering Guidance](#) compliance is also required by law under the [State Public Health Officer Order](#) issued on June 11, 2021.

This week, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) updated their [COVID-19 Guidance for Safe Schools](#) to include a recommendation for universal masking at schools among all staff and students older than age two. These recommendations are based on the fact that most students are unvaccinated and AAP identifies universal masking as “the best and most effective strategy to create consistent messages, expectations, enforcement, and compliance without the added burden of needing to monitor vaccination status.”

After several months of promising COVID-19 trends, Sacramento County has seen a dramatic rise in COVID-19 case rate. This increase in the COVID-19 case rate is consistent with statewide and national developments and is attributable to the highly contagious Delta variant and large number of individuals who are not yet fully vaccinated. To address these increases, I issued [guidance](#) strongly encouraging vaccinated residents to wear masks in indoor settings where vaccination verification is not required and the vaccination status of others is unknown. I fully support the CDPH and AAP guidance for schools. As we work to bring our children back safely to in-person learning, it is important that we take measures to reduce the risk of transmission in our schools.

Our best way out of this pandemic is for all eligible individuals to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. The vaccines are safe and effective, even against the Delta variant. Sacramento County Public Health plans dozens of pop-up clinics each week and we are continually exploring new strategies to reach more residents with vaccine. We have successfully partnered with several schools to plan vaccine clinics and I encourage schools to take an active role in both encouraging vaccination among your staff, eligible students, and their families and making

Division of Public Health

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Page 2
School Superintendents
July 20, 2021

vaccine clinics available to your communities. You can request assistance with planning a clinic by e-mailing our team at COVID19vaccine@saccounty.net.

Thank you for your continued attention to public health guidance and commitment to keeping students, staff, and families healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Olivia Kasirye MD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Olivia Kasirye, MD, MS
Public Health Officer