



Return to School 2021-2022

Wheatland School District Governing Board
Meeting Monday, August 2, 2021



Legal Mandates

- July 12, 2021, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued guidelines to K-12 Districts regarding the reopening of schools for the 2021-2022 school year.
- The foundational principle of CDPH guidance is that "all students must have access to safe and full in-person instruction and to as much instructional time as possible".
- The guidance issued includes **mandatory** requirements-K-12 students are required to mask indoors and adults in K-12 school settings are required to mask when sharing indoor spaces with students.
- The guidance leaves the enforcement of the Mask Mandate as a Local decision: Specifically the implementation of local protocols to enforce mask requirements

Two Instructional Models are in the Law

Model 1: Full School Day, In-Person Instruction - Traditional in-person instruction with safety protocols as mandated by CDC, CDPH, Cal/OSHA, the Sutter/Yuba Public Health

Model 2: Independent Study - this is voluntary optional program and is only available for students whose needs may be best met through study outside of the regular classroom setting. Districts can apply for a waiver if they can not fiscally support this program based on numbers of students that may enroll.

Independent Study

The enactment of AB 130 changed many of the requirements for Independent Study. Most notable is the requirement for both live and synchronous instruction depending on the grade level of the student.

Live Interaction is defined as interaction between the student and teacher/paraprofessional, and may include other students. The interaction may take place in person or in the form of internet/telephonic communication.

Synchronous instruction is defined as classroom-style instruction, small group, or one-on-one instruction delivered in person, or in the form of internet/telephonic communications and involving live, two-way communication between the teacher and student.

Live Interaction/Synchronous Instruction

Grade level Requirements

Grades K-3: daily synchronous instruction for all students throughout the school year

Grades 4-8: both daily live interaction and at least weekly synchronous instruction for all students throughout the school year

General CDPH/CDC District Requirements

Physical Distancing: All schools will attempt to maximize space between seating and desks to the greatest extent practicable, but will not exclude students from in-person learning to keep a minimum distance requirement.

Facial Coverings: Per CDPH guidelines, ALL TK-12 grade students are required to wear face coverings while indoors. Staff are required to wear facial coverings in the presence of students regardless of vaccination status. Face coverings while outdoors are optional. Enforcement of the wearing of face coverings will be a local decision. CDC guidelines varies a bit from CDPH in that CDC indicates that staff that have been vaccinated (and show proof) are highly recommended (but not mandated) to wear facial coverings.

Transportation: Students and staff are required to wear facial coverings when riding the bus or van. Windows should be open/cracked to increase ventilation.

Cafeteria and Recess/PE Protocols

- To the extent possible, physical distancing will be maximized while unmasked for the purpose of eating and drinking, especially indoors.
- If possible, spaces outside of the cafeteria will be used for mealtimes (weather dependent).
- Students will not be required to wear a face covering outdoors during recess and PE.

Co/Extracurricular Activities

- The District will follow all CDPH requirements for youth sports
- Per CDPH, new guidance for youth sports is forthcoming
- Student-athletes who attend independent study (if program is offered) will not participate in school athletics
- Clubs, performances, student related activities will follow all CDPH requirements for indoor and outdoor activities

Ventilation/Daily Cleaning

Ventilation

- The District has invested in the GPS Bipolar Ionization that will continue to be used on all HVAC systems
- HVAC Systems are maintained by an outside company
- HVAC filters will be replaced at quarterly, more frequently as needed.

Daily Cleaning

- Cleaning & disinfecting will occur daily. This will include using the ionizing sprayers
- Classrooms will continue to be provided with hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes

Modified Quarantine

- When both parties were wearing a facial covering in the indoor setting, unvaccinated students who are a close contact (more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period) may undergo a modified 10-day quarantine. They may continue to attend school for in-person instruction if they:
 - Are asymptomatic
 - Continue to appropriately masked, as required
 - Undergo at least twice weekly testing during the 10-day quarantine period
 - Continue to quarantine for all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community setting

Facial Covering Non-Compliance Options

- Instruct parents that any student who fails to follow the facial coverings requirements is not entitled to attend in-person instruction during a pandemic and immediately exclude and offer Independent Study (Superintendent does NOT recommended this approach)
- Completely ignore the CPDH/CDC requirements and allow students to attend without wearing facial coverings (Superintendent does NOT recommended this approach)
- An approach that allows for the school and the parent to work together giving parental choice as a priority before any other options need to be explored (Recommended)
- In their July 12, 2021, COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, CPDH stated they will continue to assess conditions on an ongoing basis, and will determine **no later** than November 1, 2021, whether to update mask requirements
- Please know that this is a very fluid situation and changes constantly so, not being able to predict the future, please be aware this could change at anytime

Response to Mask Non-Compliance

Goal: ALL students must have access to **safe** and **full in-person** instruction and to **as much instructional time** as possible.

Requirement or local decision: The wearing of facial coverings by students when indoors, at TK-12 school sites and on buses, is a **requirement by the State** and **NOT a local decision**.

Non Vaccinated adults: are also **Required** to wear facial coverings in the presence of students based on the CDPH guidelines. The CDC guidelines indicate **vaccinated adults** are **highly recommended** to wear facial coverings in the presence of students

Beale AFB: Beale AFB has issued a directive that **EVERYONE** inside all buildings on Beale AFB **will be required** to wear masks, whether vaccinated or not and are also required outside when they can not maintain 6 feet of distance

State Guidance: Local protocols to address enforcement of the mask requirements must be developed

Student Enforcement Recommendations

I am recommending that we take a passive approach to enforcement of the Mask Mandate for students

- If a student arrives at school without a facial covering then one will be provided and the student will be encouraged to wear the facial covering
- If the student does not wear the facial covering the student will NOT be excluded from the classroom or from school. No loss of merit points, no discipline slips, etc
- District Staff will not be placed in the compromising position of taking enforcement actions for non-compliance, so therefore staff will not send students to the office for non-compliance and will not level consequences
- Students are required to wear a mask on the bus. Students will be given a mask if they do not have one. They will be told to wear the mask. If the student does not wear the facial covering the driver will not discipline the student and will not remove the student from the bus
- It is the District's continued desire to focus all of our attention and resources on the instruction of our students
- The District will continue to deploy all COVID prevention measures and encourage all to comply with the CDPH and CDC Guidelines

Staff Requirements Recommendations:

- All unvaccinated staff will be required to use facial coverings when inside and in the presence of students
- All vaccinated staff are not required but highly recommended to wear facial coverings inside in the presence of students. (Staff must provide a copy of their vaccination card to the Superintendent or wear a mask)
- Staff working outside do not need to wear facial coverings unless they enter a room with students present
- Staff working before or after school hours and not with students do not need to wear facial coverings
- Office Staff will not need to wear facial coverings unless students, other staff and/or parents are present or walk into the workspace
- Bus Drivers must wear masks when driving students on the bus but can remove when they are alone on the bus
- **Exception** – All staff at Lone Tree/WCA must adhere to the directive of BAFB so they will need to wear facial coverings at all times while inside the building, vaccinated or not. They do not need to wear facial coverings outside if they are over 6ft apart