



October 15, 2021

Dear Parents and Families:

I wanted to give you an update and address some questions that I have received regarding the [recent announcements from the Governor](#) regarding mandatory vaccines.

Tiered Enforcement Plan: [EUSD Student Expectations & Enforcement Plan.docx](#)

The COVID-19 case rate for Tehama County as of today is 44.9 which puts us in the Moderate tier for next week. Please refer to the link above for a list of the mitigation measures that will be in place for next week.

Student Vaccine Mandate

The Governor has ordered CDPH to begin the process of adding the COVID-19 Vaccine to the list of required vaccines for students once the vaccine has full FDA approval. This process takes months to complete and **does not** take effect immediately upon the full FDA approval. Upon FDA approval, CDPH has the order to begin a process to add the vaccine to the list which takes months. The phase in of the vaccine will happen in two steps. First, it will be for grades 7-12 and is anticipated to become effective on or around July of 2022. The second step will be for grades K-6 and that is anticipated to become effective on or around January of 2023.

School districts in California have to comply with the mandate once it becomes effective. There is some misinformation out there that districts have the option whether or not to comply; this is false. What is true is that districts have the right to adopt the mandate earlier as we have seen in Los Angeles and the Bay Area. Evergreen has no plans to follow suit at this time and require the vaccination prior to CDPH requiring the vaccine; however, we will be completely compliant once the mandate takes effect.

Exemptions regarding the Student Vaccine

At this time, personal belief exemptions and medical exemptions are available. However, the status of those exemptions could change in the future. If that happens, or we hear that it may happen, we will communicate that information as soon as we have it.

Staff Vaccine/Testing Mandate

Based on the [August 11, 2021 Public Health Order](#), all school employees are expected to be vaccinated or participate in weekly COVID-19 testing by October 15, 2021. We began the testing process last week and are working with staff to comply with this mandate. Unfortunately, we may run into staffing challenges in some areas/departments of our system, including classrooms, in the event a staff member does not test or provide proof of vaccination. In spite of these possible challenges, we will continue to do our best to maintain and provide support for all students.

October 18 Protest/Walkout

I know that there has been much discussion in our community about a protest taking place regarding the mandates put in place during the Covid-19 pandemic on Monday, October 18th. Our school will be open to serve our students on October 18th. I recognize that it is a well established right to peacefully protest in our state and country, but we are committed to fulfilling our obligation to serve our students and families as we do every day of the school year. We will continue to work hard to keep our schools open to all students five days per week while complying with the Public Health mandates as they evolve and change.

Sincerely,

Brad Mendenhall
Superintendent
Evergreen Union School District