



## No COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement for the 22-23 School Year Friday, April 15, 2022

Dear RUSD Community,

California will not initiate the process for a COVID-19 vaccine requirement for the 2022-2023 school year and as such, any COVID-19 vaccine requirements would not take effect until after full FDA approval and no sooner than July 1, 2023.

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 14, 2022

PH22-073

**CONTACT:** [CDPHpress@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:CDPHpress@cdph.ca.gov)

### **Statement on Timeline for COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements in Schools**

*The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) today issued the following statement regarding a new implementation timeline for adding the COVID-19 vaccine to the list of vaccinations required to attend school.*

SACRAMENTO – The federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not yet fully approved COVID-19 vaccines for individuals of all ages within the 7–12 grade span. The State of California announced last October that full approval by the FDA was a precondition to initiating the rulemaking process to add the COVID-19 vaccine to other vaccinations required for in-person school attendance—such as measles, mumps, and rubella—pursuant to California’s Health and Safety Code. To ensure sufficient time for successful implementation of new vaccine requirements, California will not initiate the regulatory process for a COVID-19 vaccine requirement for the 2022-2023 school year and as such, any vaccine requirements would not take effect until after full FDA approval and no sooner than July 1, 2023.

Vaccines are the most powerful weapon against hospitalization and serious illness due to COVID-19. California’s response to conditions in schools has adapted to the dynamic challenges of the pandemic, based on science. As outlined in Governor Newsom’s [SMARTER Plan](#), the State has maintained vaccine supply, operational readiness, and access to education and resources about COVID-19 and vaccines with focused engagement to ensure younger Californians are taking opportunities to get vaccinated.

“CDPH strongly encourages all eligible Californians, including children, to be vaccinated against COVID-19,” said California Department of Public Health Director and State Public Health Officer Dr. Tomás J. Aragón. “We continue to ensure that our response to the COVID-19 pandemic is driven by the best science and data available. Under the Governor’s SMARTER plan, California is making informed decisions on how to further protect students and staff, to keep children safely in classrooms.”

Upon full approval by the FDA, CDPH will consider the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Family Physicians prior to implementing a school vaccine requirement.

CDPH continues to emphasize and conduct outreach regarding the safety and effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine; support [youth vaccination campaigns](#) and [school-located vaccination programs](#); and strongly encourage all eligible Californians, including eligible children, to [get vaccinated](#).

Please visit [myturn.ca.gov](https://myturn.ca.gov) or call (833) 422-4255 to make your vaccine or booster appointment today.

[www.cdph.ca.gov](https://www.cdph.ca.gov)

Warm regards,  
Dr. Kimberly McGrath  
Superintendent  
Reed Union School District  
"We are even stronger together!"

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