

# Implementing COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements

---

December 13, 2021



# The Why:

Our focus during this pandemic has been to take steps to ensure our students could learn in-person.

The vaccine mandate is the single best protective tool for ensuring our students remain learning in-person during this pandemic.

As we have seen, COVID-19 has disproportionately affected our South Bay communities, particularly people of color who make up a vast majority of students in our Sweetwater District. Our goal is to continue to work with our partner health agencies to protect the public health of our students, staff, and communities.



# Agenda

1. Review of Last Presentation
2. Timeline of Previous Board Actions
3. SUHSD Data Update
4. Recommendations for Board Consideration
5. Next Steps Upon Passage

# Board Discussion and Requests

In the last board meeting on October 11, 2021:

- We heard from the school community and board members.
- We heard from District Physician/Pediatrics Specialist, Medical Specialist School Health, Dr. Howard Taras.
- Board members requested staff return with a plan for implementing a vaccine mandate on or before July 1, 2022, in alignment with Governor Newsom's order.

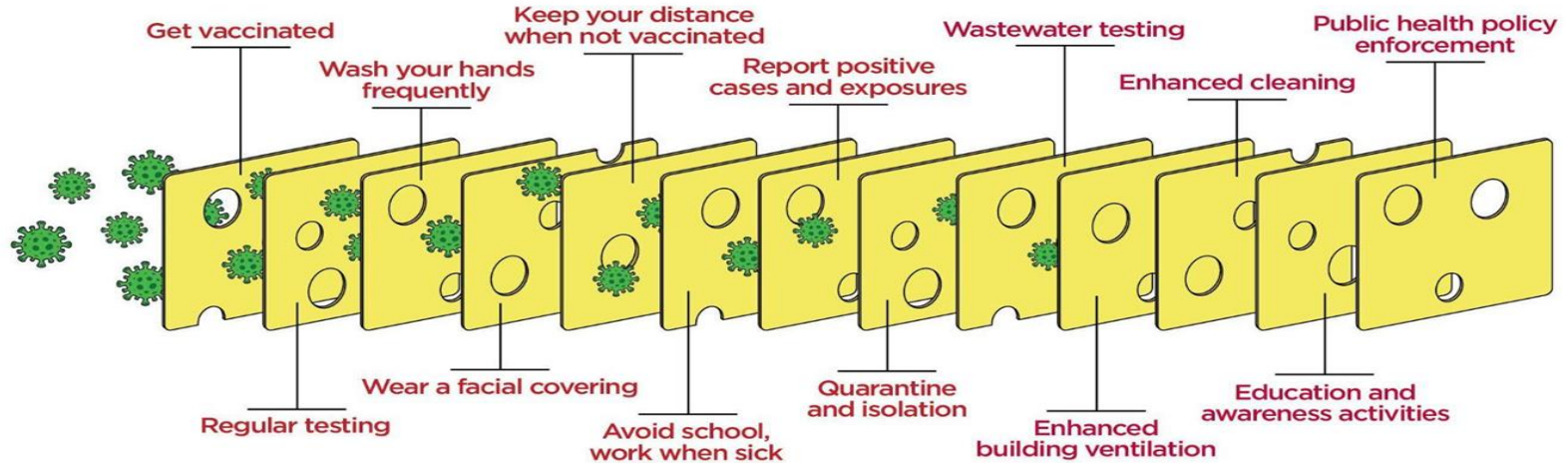


# Protection Layers Against COVID-19

## Multi-level approach to preventing the spread of COVID-19

*No one action can prevent the spread of COVID-19. A multi-layer approach involving organizational and individual actions is necessary.*

### Shared Responsibilities and Interventions



*This illustration was adapted from the Swiss Cheese Model developed by James Reason, Ph.D.*

[SDSU.edu/COVID19](https://www.sdsu.edu/COVID19)



**Layers: Vaccine, Testing, Face masks, Hand Hygiene, Social Distance, Pre-screening, Quarantine & Isolation, Improved Ventilation, Contact Tracing, Enhanced Cleaning, Education & Awareness Activities, & Public Health Reinforcement.**

# Board Actions Related to COVID

- March 23, 2020:** Adopt Resolution Emergency Conditions for COVID
- June 22, 2020:** COVID-19 Operations report written by Staff
- July 27, 2020:** Approved reopening schools plan
- November 24, 2020:** Approved modified reopening of schools plan
- February 8, 2021:** Agreement with County for Vaccination Services (extended in June)
- April 26, 2021:** Vaccination Services between Sweetwater and Family Health Centers of San Diego
- June 28, 2021:** Approve staff to update safe return to in-person instruction + ESSER Application
- August 9, 2021:** Agreement with the State of California for Pooled Testing Services, COVID Short Term Staffing, and Staffing Service Agreement with Manpower
- October 11, 2021:** Discuss Governor Newsom's Executive Order and considerations of early implementation of mandatory Vaccination for staff and students



# Statewide Vaccination Status Update

- December 11, 2020: FDA approved Emergency Use Authorization for Pfizer vaccine, for individuals **16 and up**.
- May 10, 2021: FDA approved Emergency Use Authorization for Pfizer vaccine, for individuals **12 and up**; generally takes at least 6 months of data to move to full authorization.
- August 11, 2021: State issued a Health Order requiring staff to provide proof of vaccination or weekly testing and be implemented by October 15.
- August 24, 2021: FDA has **fully approved** Pfizer vaccine for students age **16 and up**.
- September 30, 2021: Governor Newsom issued an executive order requiring students and staff to receive Covid-19 Vaccination to continue participating in a public education or employment setting.
- The Governor's plan discussed implementation of grade groups 7-12 by July 1, 2022, following full FDA approval for age group, but suggested that District may implement sooner
- December 2021: Booster Shot is now available for ages 16-18.



# Vaccine Information

## How do Vaccines work?

- The vaccine teaches our immune system to recognize and fight the virus.
- Getting vaccinated helps prevent a person from getting seriously ill, and also helps prevent them from spreading the virus to others.
- The pandemic has resulted in far reaching impacts to district staff, students and our community, ranging from sickness, isolation, job loss, and community/school closures.
- According to the CDC, vaccines can help prevent new variants.
- CDC, American Academy of Pediatrics, and state and local health agencies recommend vaccine for all district age populations.
- High vaccination rates reduces the spread of the virus.
- Community Benefit: achieving herd immunity requires higher vaccination rates.





# COVID Impacts and Vaccine Information

- More than 792,000 people nationwide have died of COVID-19.
- 4,340 COVID-19 deaths in San Diego County.
  - 85% have been of people ages 50+.
  - 45% are Hispanic/Latinos.
  - 94% were unvaccinated people.
- 1,096 COVID-19 deaths within District boundaries.
- While District population is only 14% of the county population, disproportionate impacts equating to over 25% of the county's COVID deaths.

# SUHSD COVID Case Data



COVID Cases for the 2021-2022 Semester to Date:

<b>Month</b>	<b>Students: 36,523</b>	<b>Staff: 4,642</b>
<b>July</b>	101	11
<b>August</b>	415	35
<b>September</b>	124	25
<b>October</b>	157	21
<b>November</b>	155	20
<b>December</b>	50	7

# SUHSD Case Data - Outbreaks During Semester

County Guidance defines as 3 or more cases that are epidemiologically linked in a 28 day window; more cases extends time window

Outbreaks	Date Initiated
<u>MVH Football</u> Links: 4 People	Onset: 8/16/21 Closed: 10/1/21
<u>ELH Football</u> Links: 5 People	Onset: 8/22/21 Closed: 10/28/21
<u>BVH Football</u> Links: 14 People	Onset: 8/26/21 Closed: 10/7/21
<u>ELM Classroom (1)</u> Links: 5 People	Onset: 8/30/21 Closed: 10/8/21
<u>CVH Marching Band</u> Links: 3 people	Onset: 9/7/21 Closed: 10/15/21
<u>MVH Water Polo (1)</u> Links: 9 people	Onset: 9/8/21 Closed: 10/14/21
<u>MVH Water Polo (2)</u> Links: 9 people	Onset: 9/12/21 Closed: 11/3/21

Outbreaks	Date Initiated
<u>OLH Football (1)</u> Links: 4 People	Onset: 10/5/21 Closed: 11/12/21
<u>ELM Classroom (2)</u> Links: 3 People	Onset: 10/7/21 Closed: 11/12/21
<u>SUH Cheer/Football</u> Links: 6 People	Onset: 10/7/21 Closed: 11/17/21
<u>SUH Classroom</u> Links: 5 People	Onset: 10/12/21 Closed: 11/26/21
<u>OLH Football (2)</u> Links: 4 People	Onset: 10/18/21 Closed: 11/19/21
<u>SYH Classroom</u> Links: 3 People	Onset: 10/29/21 Closed: 12/10/21
<u>SOH Classroom</u> Links: 3 People	Onset: 11/3/21 <i>Remains Open</i>

# SUHSD Vaccination Data

## Students: (As of October 10)

Among **36,523** Sweetwater Students:

- **65.4%** have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.
- **60.5%** of all Sweetwater students received all recommended doses.

(Per SDPH Aggregate Data Rcvd 10/7/21)

## As of December 10:

- **65%** of High School student-athletes report being vaccinated.

## Staff: (As of October 10)

Among **4,642** Sweetwater staff and substitute on the roster:

- **83.6%** have received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine.
- **80.1%** of all Sweetwater staff received all recommended doses.

## As of December 10:

- **86.7%** of permanent staff is fully vaccinated.
- **411** staff required to participate in weekly testing.



# Vaccine Mandate Implementation - Around the Area

## Los Angeles Unified School District

- Staff must be fully vaccinated by October 15, 2021.
- Students involved in athletics and extracurricular activities must be vaccinated by the end of October 2021.
- All Students must be fully vaccinated by the start of second semester in January. (Considered extension to start of 2022-2023 School Year).

## San Diego Unified School District

- Staff needs to be vaccinated by December 20, 2021.
- Students need to be vaccinated by December 20, 2021.

## Sacramento City Unified School District

- Required staff and students to be fully vaccinated by November 30, 2021. (Considering extending to start of 2022-2023 School Year for students).

## Cities that have adopted vaccine mandate for staff:

- San Diego (implemented).
- Chula Vista (Executive, hourly; new employees).



# Recommended Timeline

## Staff - By February 1:

- Receive first dose and be fully vaccinated by March 15.

### Alternative:

- File paperwork for exemption.
- File for voluntary resignation or retirement effective at the end of the school year.

\* Impacts Bargaining will be required after Board approval.

## Students - By February:

- Provide notice to district of intent for students either to be vaccinated and participate in in-person instruction, or attend virtually for the 2022-2023 school year.

### Alternative:

- File paperwork for exemption.

### Potential Virtual Options

- Launch Virtual Academy (Online learning).
- Independent Study.

## Exemptions:

- Medical and religious exemption would be reviewed on a case by case basis upon timely submission of completed paperwork. Application requirements will be provided following action by Board.



# Timeline (cont.)

## Student-Athletes and Extracurriculars:

The best chance to have an uninterrupted season is to ensure that all student participants in any extracurricular activities are vaccinated and continue weekly monitor testing.

- Spring Season begins February 5, 2022.
- Receive first dose or exemption by February 1.
- Fully vaccinated by March 15, 2022.
- Will not be able to participate in any sport or extracurricular activity, absent exemption.
- Students Under 16: Until full authorization of vaccine, **strongly encourage** participants to vaccinate.
  - Implement vaccination requirements as soon as they turn 16 (even mid season) and/or
  - As soon as full approval occurs by FDA (anticipated January).

## **Exemptions:**

- Medical and religious exemption would be reviewed on a case by case basis upon timely submission of completed paperwork. Application requirements will be provided to families following action by Board.



# Next Steps

## Staff:

- Notice impacted staff of Board action; negotiate as required.
- Analyze impacted positions and prepare postings for employees who do not comply in order to ensure appropriate school staffing before start of 2022-2023 school year (411 employees).
- Inform staff through our weekly COVID communication.

## Parents/Students:

- To prepare for 2022-23 school year, request intent forms from students to plan for staffing Launch Virtual Academy (online learning) and Independent Study, including exemption process.
- For athletes/extracurricular - send notice to all families participating of requirements, including exemption process.
- Continue sending weekly communication letters to families with information regarding vaccination, testing and provide options for non-vaccinated families.



# Next Steps

## COVID-19 and Vaccine Resources:

- Continue partnerships with City of Chula Vista, San Ysidro Health Clinic and Champions for Health to provide access to vaccination clinics for staff and students.
  - October and November we held 12 vaccine clinics at school sites.
  - Olympian High School will host vaccine clinic in January 24 from 3:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m..
  - Weekly vaccine clinics at Chula Vista City hall from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m..
- Continue partnerships with SDSU and Concentric by Gingko for monitoring and diagnostic testing for staff, students, and community.
- Weekly newsletters will continue with COVID resources regarding testing, vaccines clinics, information regarding vaccines, etc.
- COVID Website: <http://www.sweetwaterschools.org/covid-19-information/>



# Board Discussion, Questions, and Action

