

## **Oroville Union High School District COVID-19 Protocols for 2021-2022 School Year**

As we approach the start of the new school year, Oroville Union High School District is closely monitoring the latest developments concerning the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic as well as local conditions.

The health order issued on August 2, from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) [K-12 Schools Guidance](#) for the 2021-22 school year states that all students and staff must wear a face covering indoors. The new guidance allows schools to reopen with regular schedules, very little physical distancing, and no masks required outdoors.

While some guidance is similar to last year, there are some changes as well:

### **Continues from last school year:**

- Masks are required indoors for all students and employees regardless of vaccination status
- Staff and students must stay home when sick
- Unvaccinated individuals with symptoms, who test positive, or who have close contact exposure must quarantine for the required period
- Testing recommendations are in place for individuals with symptoms or close contact exposures
- Positive case reporting and contact tracing will take place by the District
- Hand hygiene practices
- Masks must be worn on school buses by all students and employees
- HVAC upgrades
- Regular food service operations on campus for students learning in person. Social distancing will be in place in cafeterias and alternate dining venues will be used when possible.

### **New this year:**

- A Grab-&-Go breakfast or lunch (depending on the time the student arrives) will be available for independent study students at the Jazz Cafe, located on the OHS South Campus, daily from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The time may be adjusted after the first week depending upon participation.
- Due to the availability of better science and data, instead of quarantining entire classes or departments, the quarantine process will focus on individuals directly impacted by a potential exposure, including vaccination status.
- Long-term independent study options can be found at [bit.ly/CISOptions](https://bit.ly/CISOptions).
- A homework request can be made through the counseling office for students who are in quarantine and cannot attend school for a short period of time.

### **No longer required:**

- Masks outdoors, regardless of vaccination status
- Masks may be removed for eating and drinking
- Hybrid schedules
- Physical distancing (except for cafeterias)
- Quarantine for vaccinated, unless symptomatic

Please see the [CDPH's K-12 Schools Guidance Questions and Answers](#) for more information about vaccinations, masking and quarantining.

Guidelines for sports, drama, band and other extracurricular activities is pending and additional information will be provided as soon as it is available. Masks will not be required outdoors.

### **Other safety strategies our schools will continue to employ:**

- All eligible individuals are highly encouraged to be vaccinated. For Butte County vaccination opportunities, please visit:  
<http://www.buttecounty.net/ph/COVID19/vaccine>
- Continued cleaning of classrooms and common spaces
- Frequent hand washing

### **Continued reminders to students and staff:**

- Teaching and reinforcing use of face coverings, or in limited instances, face shields with drapes (if a doctor's note is provided)
- Not to touch the face covering and to wash their hands frequently
- Providing information to all staff and families in the school community on proper use, removal, and washing of cloth face coverings
- Appropriate time to remove a face covering or face shield while indoors only for meals, drinks, or when it needs to be replaced.
- Applying face covering policies on school buses and any vehicle affiliated with the District used to transport students, staff, or teachers to and/or from a school site

In limited situations where a face covering cannot be used for pedagogical or developmental reasons, (e.g., communicating or assisting those with special needs) a face shield with a drape (per CDPH guidelines) can be used instead of a face covering while in the classroom as long as the wearer maintains physical distance from others. Staff must return to wearing a face covering in accordance with the second point above when sharing indoor spaces with students.

Some parents/guardians have reached out with concerns about the indoor mask requirement: **the mask mandate is *not* discretionary for California K-12 districts.**

Per the directive from the CDPH, all California school districts **must** require that all students and staff wear face coverings at all times when indoors, regardless of vaccination status. All K-12 districts in the state must comply with this mandatory requirement, which includes enforcing it at all school sites. Therefore, local Boards of Education and the Superintendent do not have discretion about whether or not to enforce the mask mandate for students and staff. The CDPH makes clear that districts' discretion is limited to adopting enforcement protocols that ensure face coverings are properly worn at all times while indoors. CDPH will continue to monitor the situation and will make changes to the guidelines according to levels of community transmission.

Please note that districts are to follow safety regulations from state agencies for all people on campus. To express your thoughts and concerns to state policymakers, please see the links below:

Governor Newsom: <https://govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov40mail/>

CDPH: [https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Pages/contact\\_us.aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Pages/contact_us.aspx)

Click the link for the complete [CDPH Guidance for K-12 Schools from 7/12/2021](#).

As this is an evolving situation, Oroville Union High School will keep you informed and provide updates as they become available. We will continue to make decisions that prioritize the health of our students and employees.

For the most up-to-date information, please visit the OUHSD website on [www.ouhsd.org](http://www.ouhsd.org). Follow us on Instagram @[ouhsd](#), and on Facebook at [OrovilleUHSD](#).