



Board of Trustees Members

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KAREN HENDRICKS
Superintendent

February 28, 2022

Dear Alta Loma School District Staff,

After a lengthy wait for information on next steps for COVID-19 safety measures in K-12 schools, we've seen quite a bit of news come out in just the last few days. ALSD and other Districts in the county and statewide have continued to follow the guidance from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) as well as local health authorities (SBCDPH) during the pandemic.

- On Friday, February 25, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) shared an evolved approach to COVID-19. The CDC noted that schools are now included in public settings where masking and testing *may not be necessary if the disease risk is low* based on the new metrics. For counties with high COVID-19 community levels, the CDC recommends the wearing of masks in public indoor spaces, staying up to date on COVID-19 vaccines, and testing for those who have symptoms. (CDC COVID-19 Community Levels - [Check for updates on your county status here.](#))
- Today, Governor Newsom announced that the state's requirement for masking in schools will expire at 11:59pm on Friday, March 11. This updated CDPH guidance will allow students, regardless of vaccination status, to be without a face mask at school beginning Monday, March 14. The Governor's Office is also working with Cal/OSHA to align the requirements as soon as possible.

So...what does all of this mean?

Beginning at midnight on Saturday, March 12, the legal mandate from the CDPH is set to expire. In anticipation that Cal/OSHA and SBCDPH guidance also align, **ALSD will then be able to shift allowing staff and students (families) to make indoor masking in our schools a choice as opposed to a requirement on Monday, March 14.** I will continue to communicate with you as other requisite pieces fall into place, but wanted you to have as much information as possible as soon as possible.

Safety protocols and mitigation strategies will continue to be a part of the new "best practice" we've developed over the past two years. Excellent HVAC systems, the utilization of fresh air to ventilate facilities, and mask availability for staff who choose to wear a face covering are just a few of the things currently in place for this transition. If you determine that you have additional needs, such as plexiglass barriers around your workspace or approved cleaning materials for example, please reach out to your school site principal or department director. You may also contact our Human Resources team at 909-484-5151.

Please accept my most sincere appreciation for all you have done over the past two years...through all of the twists and turns, and some of the most tremendous pressure imaginable. We are grateful to you and for you, and I look forward to being back in contact soon.

Sincerely yours,

Karen Hendricks
Superintendent

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