

REVISED 09/14/21

PIEDMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Randall Booker, Superintendent

DATE: September 14, 2021

RE: **ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION 5141.31 IMMUNIZATIONS - STUDENT VACCINE**

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I. **SUPPORT INFORMATION**

At the August 25, 2021 and September 22, 2021 Board of Education Meetings, the Board directed the Superintendent to draft policy that requires a COVID-19 vaccination for all eligible students as a condition of in-person school attendance (except for those with a medical exemption).

District staff developed the following added language to Administrative Regulation 5141.31 Immunizations:

*In the interest of public health, proof of COVID-19 vaccination is required of all age-eligible students.*

*All age-eligible students must receive both vaccine doses by no later than November 17, 2021; All other students must receive both vaccine doses by no later than 8 weeks after age eligibility. Age-eligible unvaccinated students shall be excluded from in-person school and referred to independent study, unless the student is exempt from the COVID-19 vaccination as prescribed by a licensed physician. Age-eligible exempt students will be required to undergo weekly COVID-19 testing at least one time per week.*

Since the adoption of this new policy language, the student vaccination rate amongst PUSD students has surpassed 97%.

## Student Vaccination Rate for PUSD Students (as of 1/21/22)

School Name	No	Yes	Grand Total	
Beach Elementary School	16	248	264	93.94%
Havens Elementary School	18	415	433	95.84%
Millennium High School	2	54	56	96.43%
Piedmont High School	4	818	822	99.51%
Piedmont Middle School	9	491	500	98.20%
Piedmont Preschool	4	0	4	0.00%
Wildwood Elementary School	6	255	261	97.70%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>2281</b>	<b>2340</b>	<b>97.48%</b>

The District's goal, shared by the Board of Education, administrative team, teachers and staff is to keep our schools and community as safe as possible for in-person instruction.

The District believes that students benefit exponentially more from an in-person educational experience than an Independent Study Program. Because of this, and our incredibly high vaccination rates, the Superintendent is recommending that the Board of Education remove COVID-19 from Board Policy and Administrative Regulation 5141.31 until the California Department of Public Health and the State of California adds it to the list of required immunizations as found in Health and Safety Code 120335; 17 CCR 6025, Education Code, California Legislation and/or by Executive Order of the Governor.

At this time, the District finds no educational value in transferring vaccine-hesitant students into an Independent Study program when we are experiencing a remarkably high vaccination rate across all campuses.

The District reached its goal of keeping our schools and community as safe as possible with a vaccination rate of over 97% and is extremely proud of the efforts of our families and students to keep our schools open for in-person learning.

### Information on COVID-19 Vaccination

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends a COVID-19 vaccine for all age-eligible individuals. According to the CDC:

COVID-19 vaccines are safe

- COVID-19 vaccines were developed using science that has been around for decades.
- COVID-19 vaccines are not experimental. They went through all the required stages of clinical trials. Extensive testing and monitoring have shown that these vaccines are safe and effective.
- COVID-19 vaccines have received and continue to undergo the most intensive safety monitoring in U.S. history. [Learn more about how federal partners are ensuring COVID-19 vaccines work.](#)

## COVID-19 vaccines are effective

- COVID-19 vaccines are effective. They can keep you from getting and spreading the virus that causes COVID-19. [Learn more about the different COVID-19 vaccines.](#)
- COVID-19 vaccines also help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19.
- Getting vaccinated yourself may also protect people around you, [particularly people at increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.](#)

## Delta Variant

The Delta variant causes more infections and spreads faster than earlier forms of the virus that causes COVID-19. It might cause more severe illness than previous strains in unvaccinated people.

- Vaccines continue to reduce a person's risk of contracting the virus that cause COVID-19, including this variant.
- Vaccines continue to be highly effective at preventing hospitalization and death, including against this variant.
- Fully vaccinated people with breakthrough infections from this variant appear to be infectious for a shorter period.
- Get vaccinated and wear masks indoors in public spaces to reduce the spread of this variant.

## Omicron Variant

CDC is working with state and local public health officials to [monitor the spread of Omicron](#). As of December 20, 2021, Omicron has been detected in most states and territories and is rapidly increasing the proportion of COVID-19 cases it is causing.

CDC has been collaborating with global public health and industry partners to learn about Omicron, as we continue to monitor its course. We don't yet know how easily it spreads, the severity of illness it causes, or how well available vaccines and medications work against it.

## Spread

The Omicron variant likely will spread more easily than the original SARS-CoV-2 virus and how easily Omicron spreads compared to Delta remains unknown. CDC expects that anyone with Omicron infection can spread the virus to others, even if they are vaccinated or don't have symptoms.

## Severe Illness

More data are needed to know if Omicron infections, and especially reinfections and breakthrough infections in people who are fully vaccinated, cause more severe illness or death than infection with other variants.

## Vaccines

Current vaccines are expected to protect against severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths due to infection with the Omicron variant. However, [breakthrough infections](#) in people who are fully vaccinated are likely to occur. With other variants, like Delta, vaccines have remained effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalizations, and death. The recent emergence of Omicron further emphasizes the importance of vaccination and boosters.

Once you are fully vaccinated, you can start doing more

- [After you are fully vaccinated for COVID-19](#), you can resume many activities that you did before the pandemic.
- CDC recommends that fully vaccinated people wear a mask in public indoor settings if they are in an area of [substantial or high transmission](#).
  - Fully vaccinated people might choose to mask regardless of the level of transmission, particularly if they or someone in their household is immunocompromised or at [increased risk for severe disease](#), or if someone in their household is unvaccinated. People who are at increased risk for severe disease include older adults and those who have certain medical conditions, such as diabetes, overweight or obesity, and heart conditions.
- People are not considered fully vaccinated until 2 weeks after their second dose of the [Pfizer-BioNTech](#) or [Moderna](#) COVID-19 vaccine, or 2 weeks after a single-dose of [Johnson & Johnson's Janssen](#) COVID-19 vaccine. You should keep using all the tools available [to protect yourself and others](#) until you are fully vaccinated.
- Learn more about COVID-19 vaccination for [people with underlying medical conditions or weakened immune systems](#).

COVID-19 vaccination is a safer way to help build protection

- Get vaccinated regardless of whether you already had COVID-19. Evidence is emerging that people get better protection by being fully vaccinated compared with having had COVID-19. [One study](#) showed that unvaccinated people who already had COVID-19 are more than 2 times as likely than fully vaccinated people to get COVID-19 again.
- Learn more about the [clinical considerations](#) for people who were treated for COVID-19 with monoclonal antibodies or convalescent plasma, or history of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in adults or children ([MIS-A](#) or [MIS-C](#)).
- COVID-19 is still a threat to people who are unvaccinated. Some people who get COVID-19 can become severely ill, which could result in hospitalization, and some people have ongoing health problems several weeks or even longer after getting infected. Even people who did not have symptoms when they were infected can have these ongoing health problems.

Immunity after COVID-19 vaccination

- There is still a lot we are learning about COVID-19 vaccines and CDC is constantly reviewing evidence and updating guidance. We don't know how long protection lasts for those who are vaccinated.
- What we do know is that COVID-19 has caused very serious illness and death for a lot of people.
- If you get COVID-19, you also risk giving it to loved ones who may get very sick. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is a safer choice.

People who have a condition or are taking medications that weaken their immune system

may not be fully protected even if they are fully vaccinated. They should continue to take all [precautions recommended for unvaccinated people, including wearing a well-fitted mask](#), until advised otherwise by their healthcare provider.

None of the COVID-19 vaccines contain the live virus that causes COVID-19 so a COVID-19 vaccine cannot make you sick with COVID-19. Learn more [Facts about COVID-19 Vaccines](#)

II. **RECOMMENDATION: REVIEW AND ACTION**

The Board is requested to review the language regarding the student COVID-19 vaccine requirements removed from Administrative Regulation 5141.31 Immunizations.