

Board Policy 6145.1

Potential Student Vaccination Requirement for
Participation in Extracurricular Activities

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At its August 23rd meeting, the Board requested staff bring back a policy for its consideration that would require students be vaccinated in order to participate in extracurricular activities

Background Information

- District and County COVID Data
- District vaccination numbers for students and staff
- Testing to date and plans to ramp up efforts
- Vaccination efforts and lack of success
- COVID Cases and their context
- California Department of Public Health Guidance for unvaccinated students

Testing and Vaccinations

Testing

- District has been testing unvaccinated staff once a week since August 23th. State mandate starts October 15th
- This week the District began strongly encouraging unvaccinated students to test and offering testing to all students and staff
- District will soon offer testing once a week for all students and staff at every school site
- District cannot require testing of students and unvaccinated staff are not required to test until October 15
- District can and will test more, but this is extremely labor intensive and, by itself, won't reduce community spread

Vaccines

- District had a vaccine event at Capuchino and Hillsdale on Friday, August 27th. We called all unvaccinated students at those schools. 28 Cap students and 16 Hillsdale students showed up for vaccination. Very weak response

District and Local Data

- San Mateo County - Last 30 days - 3284 cases - down almost 500 since September 1
- R-eff = 0.91 Confirmed Cases are falling
- Approximately 98% of staff are vaccinated per self-attestation data
- Approximately 82% of students are vaccinated, per parent reporting
 - Ranges from 87% at BHS and CHS at 72%
- Districtwide Student Percentages by Race/Ethnicity
 - Asian - 87%
 - AA - 55%
 - Latino - 61%
 - White - 82%
 - Pacific Islander - 58%
 - Mixed Race - 84%
 - Filipino - 85%

Note - District is gathering vaccine card data and updating information

Good News!

From Tuesday, September 7th through Thursday, September 9th we tested 260 unvaccinated and vaccinated students and staff and there were no positive cases

SMUHSD COVID Dashboard

SMUHSD COVID Dashboard is at <https://www.smuhsd.org/Page/14030>

The cases include positive cases who were either at a school site or at a District building. There are approximately 9,000 students and 1,000 staff members in the District.

**Covid Dashboard numbers are updated every Friday by 4 p.m. and listed in the week we were notified.*

Total number of cases from start of school to September 9th has been 30 (this includes three new cases this week - dashboard is updated with weekly data every Friday by 4 p.m.)

Of this total, 28 are students, and two are staff. 17 were unvaccinated, and 13 were vaccinated

Confirmed case numbers are below 0.4%, but higher than District would like

Eating outside, having a high percentage of SMUHSD vaccinated individuals and compliance with mask mandates indoors seem to be preventing cases from spreading due to District operations

Vaccine Efficacy

Does the COVID-19 vaccine protect against the Delta variant?

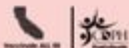


Yes. The COVID-19 vaccine protects against Delta and other variants.

The Delta variant is easier to catch, easier to spread, and **causes more severe illness in unvaccinated people.**

No vaccine is 100% effective, but **fully vaccinated people are significantly less likely to be hospitalized or die than unvaccinated people.**

The COVID-19 vaccine is the **most powerful tool we have to prevent new variants and help end the pandemic.**



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Quarantine Recommendations per CDPH

Quarantine recommendations for unvaccinated students for exposures when both parties were wearing a mask, as required in K-12 indoor settings. These are adapted from the CDC K-12 guidance and CDC definition of a close contact:

- a. When both parties were wearing a mask in any school setting in which students are supervised by school staff (including indoor or outdoor school settings and school buses, including on buses operated by public and private school systems), unvaccinated students who are close contacts (more than 15 minutes over a 24-hour period within 0-6 feet) may undergo a modified quarantine as follows. They may continue to attend school for in-person instruction if they:
 - i. Are asymptomatic;
 - ii. Continue to appropriately mask, as required;
 - iii. Undergo at least twice weekly testing during quarantine; and
 - iv. Continue to quarantine for all extracurricular activities at school, including sports, and activities within the community setting.**

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/K-12-Guidance-2021-22-School-Year.aspx>

Proposed Board Policy

Requirement: Students who participate in any extracurricular activity (as defined as activities not tied to a class in which a student earns a grade or part of whole school or class activities) must be vaccinated or submit a waiver request based on medical or religious reasons. Any student who has not received their first dose of the vaccine by September 20th will be removed from the activity.

Definition of Extracurricular Activity

Extracurricular activities are those programs that have all of the following characteristics:
(Education Code 35160.5)

1. The program is supervised or financed by the school district
2. Students participating in the program represent the school district
3. Students exercise some degree of freedom in the selection, planning or control of the program
4. The program includes both preparation for performance and performance before an audience or spectators

Extracurricular activities are not part of the regular school curriculum, are not graded, do not offer credit and do not take place during classroom time. (Education Code 35160.5)

Note - this means sports, dances, clubs outside the school day, and dramatic performances where students participate outside the regular class curriculum would be affected

Concerns and Complaints to Date

- Uneven impact - vaccination rates vary by race and ethnicity
- Vaccine Concerns - some families see vaccine mandates as an impingement of their freedom or worried about reaction to the vaccine.
- Privacy

Reasons for Policy

- Our goal is community health and this policy will drive more students to be vaccinated, potentially saving lives
- Vaccinated students who participate in activities both at our schools and those with whom we compete should not have to forfeit games because teammates or others
- Our students are entitled to a Free and Appropriate Education (FAPE), but extracurricular activities are a privilege, not a right
- Schools have an obligation to do all they can to promote community safety and health
- With this policy we stand a better chance to keep schools open and students in school

Further Recommendations

If the Board approves this policy, ask staff to return at its October 28th meeting to provide an update, with the potential to modify the policy.

Mandate that athletic coaches and other extracurricular advisors be vaccinated against COVID-19 in the same manner by the September 20th deadline for students.