

Safe Return COVID Response

From our legal firm Young, Minney, & Corr;

On Monday, July 12, 2021, the California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) issued updated K-12 school [guidance](#) * for the 2021-22 school year, which establishes both required and recommended health and safety protocols for the coming school year. In addition, the California Department of Education (“CDE”) reminded schools that a condition of receiving their American Rescue Plan ESSER III funds is for each school to prepare and post an LEA Plan for the Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services (“SRIPICS”). With this new guidance, schools now have different rules that will need to be incorporated into reopening plans for the 2021-22 school year.

One of the most notable of these matters, contained in the CDPH guidance, is the requirement that all students and adult staff must wear masks while indoors at school facilities—whether vaccinated or not.

*The word guidance in the paragraph links to the source document

Blue Oak Administration proposes continued compliance with the CDPH guidance including but not limited to:

- Continue masking required indoors
- Continue to provide masks to those who forget their mask
- Masking outdoors will be made optional
- Elimination of physical distancing requirements, except during meal time
- Elimination of class isolation
- Continued limits on nonessential visitors, volunteers, and activities involving external groups or organizations
- Daily cleaning of surfaces
- Continued focus on handwashing and hygiene
- Continued tracking and reporting of COVID 19 cases in the school community

- Offer unvaccinated students and staff regular COVID-19 screening testing.
- Offer non-classroom based instruction for those not willing to wear masks on campus.

It is recognized that wearing a mask for a full school day is an increase from The 2020-21 experience. Blue Oak staff will work on providing options such as mask breaks during the day and are open to ideas from parents and the community as to how to make this comfortable for students.

CDPH anticipates revisiting the masking requirement no later than November 1, 2021. We propose revisiting this policy at that time.