

WATERFORD UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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July 26, 2021

We are very excited about the return of full, in-person instruction in Waterford Unified School District for the 2021-2022 school year and can't wait to see students back on campus August 9th! We are aware, however, that there is still a lot of confusion surrounding the State of California's indoor mask mandate for K-12 school/youth settings.

With the goal of all schools being able to offer *full, in-person instruction* with no social distancing, the [State has mandated masks indoors](#) for students and for adults when sharing an indoor space with students, regardless of vaccination status. Masks are optional outdoors for both students and staff. The State has shared it will continue to assess conditions and determine no later than November 1, 2021, whether to update its universal mask requirement.

As a public school entity, Waterford USD is required to follow the State's directive, as we would with any law/regulation/policy. Failure to do so will put us at risk of significant legal liability, possible loss of insurance coverage, and potential State action. In short, it is not an option for Waterford USD to ignore the mask mandate.

As required by California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidance, Waterford USD will enforce the mask mandate, in an age-appropriate manner, and will work to ensure compliance as we would with any District policy through student education, and a system of interventions.

Please note, those families who think their child meets [CDPH medical exemption](#) criteria for masks, may reach out to a Waterford USD school nurse, or site principal, to discuss options and/or secure a form for your doctor to sign attesting to the need to wear a face shield with a drape instead of a mask.

We encourage those with concerns about this mandate to reach out to State officials as changing the mask mandate is not something our local administrators/officials have the power to do:

- State of CA: <https://govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov40mail/>
- CDPH: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Pages/contact_us.aspx

Thank you for your support and understanding,

Don Davis
Superintendent