



HUENEME ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 28, 2022

Good Afternoon HESD Staff,

The Governor's of California, Oregon and Washington issued a joint press release announcing changes to mask guidance. Here is the quote from Governor Newsom pertaining to schools:

"After March 11, in schools and child care facilities, masks will not be required but will be strongly recommended. "

Ventura County Public Health followed up with their announcement shortly after the Governor's Announcement:

"The Masks mandate for Ventura County students ends after March 11; Masks Strongly Recommended but not Required; Students at public and private K-12 schools in Ventura County and throughout California will no longer be required to wear masks after March 11, regardless of their vaccination status. Governor Gavin Newsom's administration made the announcement today, saying COVID-19 conditions have sufficiently improved to warrant the change."

I listened to the CDPH update by Dr. Ghaly that followed the Governor's announcement. In the update he talks about the science and metrics used in the decision making process as well as the "why now." From what I gleaned, the two most significant data points were the transmission rates and hospital impact. If you have questions about the science and metrics, here is a link to his update: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y7rjsWf9_-g

I've talked to many staff and parents over the last two weeks regarding masks, and I know this news will be received with a variety of emotions and responses. As we transition to this next phase of COVID-19, I ask that we recognize the diverse viewpoints within our HESD family and be respectful and understanding with each other as we navigate this next step.

We will continue to supply masks for staff and students as well as operate our HESD COVID-19 testing site to ensure that testing is readily available.

We will be sharing information with parents later today.

Sincerely,

Dr. Christine Walker, Superintendent