



Midway School District



Established May 5, 1903

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3/7/2022

CDPH Announces Upcoming Changes to Schools Indoor Masking Mandate

Dear Parents:

Over the past two years, Kern County school districts have followed California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidance and mandates to allow for full in-person instruction in the safest way possible. We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we have come through this pandemic together.

Governor Newsom and Dr. Mark Ghaly, California Health & Human Services Secretary, announced that with declining case rates and hospitalizations across the West, California, Oregon and Washington are moving together to update their masking guidance. After 11:59 p.m. on March 11, California will move from *mask mandates* to ***mask recommendations*** in schools. CDPH updated its [masking guidance](#) to reflect that after 11:59 p.m. on March 11, 2022, students and staff members in K-12 settings will be **strongly recommended**, but not required, to mask while indoors. This option to wear a mask will start on March 14, 2022 for all Midway students and staff.

Our school has masks available for staff and students if requested. As we begin to transition from pandemic response into a new chapter where we can use more routine disease control tactics, it is important that we continue with some of the mitigation strategies we are all familiar with - monitoring symptoms, testing, high-quality ventilation systems, etc. - with a focus on personal responsibility and respect. Please be kind to each other and respect each other's decisions.

Thank you for your dedication as we continue to navigate what is hopefully a move forward out of the pandemic. We truly appreciate your patience and understanding as we take every step to preserve the health of our students and staff while keeping our community as safe and healthy as possible.

Respectfully,

Al Quezada
Superintendent/Principal

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