Options For Youth
Public Charter Schools

October 8, 2021

Dear OFY-SB Parents and Guardians,

On Friday, October 1, 2021, Governor Newsom announced that students attending California schools will be required to get vaccinated against COVID-19 for in person learning starting the term following FDA full approval of the vaccine for their grade span (7-12 and K-6). Districts throughout the state were unaware of this development prior to the announcement made on Friday. However, OFY-SB will be conferring with state and local agencies to provide our school community with details regarding the Governor's new mandate.

In the meantime, based on the Governor's announcement, the following information has been provided:

- The COVID-19 vaccine will be treated similarly to the ten existing vaccines currently required by California law for students attending K-12 schools.
- The COVID-19 vaccination requirement will not apply until COVID-19 vaccines are given full authorization by the FDA, which could come as early as November for children 12 to 17 years of age (with authorization for younger children likely to occur early 2022).
- Depending on the date of full FDA authorization, the Governor is targeting either January 1, 2022, or July 1, 2022, for adding COVID-19 to the list of required vaccinations.
- The COVID-19 vaccination requirement is a condition for students attending school for in-person instruction. A student who is not vaccinated may enroll in independent study but may not participate in in-person instruction.
- The COVID-19 vaccination requirement will be implemented utilizing a phased approach:
    - Phase 1: Students in Grades 7-12 (ages 12+)
    - Phase 2: Students in Grades K-6
- Details on exemptions will be available based on the requirements coming from the Governor.

Please note, the Governor's announcement does not change the October 15 CDPH order requiring vaccination verification or testing for all K-12 staff working in the district and school facilities. However, the current verify-or-test requirement for staff will be converted to a vaccine mandate no later than when the first phase of the student requirement becomes effective.

We will continue to keep you informed as additional information becomes available. Thank you for your continued patience and cooperation.

Options For Youth San Bernardino Leadership Team