

February 28, 2022

Dear BOUSD Staff and Community,

I hope this email finds you doing well. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, I am proud of the efforts we have made to navigate the changes and challenges as they were presented. Not everyone has held the same point of view, but we have worked through our differences and respected the guidance given to us. As a staff and community, we find ourselves at another turning point. Earlier today Governor Gavin Newsom announced that, due to declining case rates and hospitalizations, the state of California is updating their masking guidance. Beginning March 12, in schools and child care facilities, masks will not be required but strongly recommended. Students and staff may still choose to wear masks regardless of their vaccination status, but there will no longer be a state requirement after 11:59 p.m. on Friday, March 11.

Based on the announcement, here are the current guidelines:

- Current masking requirements will be in place until the end of the instructional day on Friday, March 11.
- The first day of in-class instruction with voluntary masking will be Monday, March 14.
- There will be no distinction between vaccinated and unvaccinated students in the state masking policy.

Looking ahead:

- When BOUSD transitions to masks "strongly recommended", the expectation is that individual choices are respected.
- We ask that students and families please let teachers know their wishes and we ask all of our teachers to do their best to support them.
- Classrooms should discuss the change with students in a developmentally appropriate manner, including how to respect everyone's personal choice.
- If your student(s) expresses any anxiety, feel free to reach out to our school counselors for support as needed.

Until then, BOUSD remains committed to following state and local health and safety guidelines that enabled our schools to remain open for in-person instruction. The health and safety of our students, staff, and families remain our top priority.

Thanks to the commitment and resilience of our Brea Olinda Unified School District community for doing our part. I 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.

Sincerely,



Brinda C. Leon
Deputy Superintendent
Chief Human Resources Officer