



Statement Regarding Governor Newsom’s Announcement on February 28, 2022

Some good news to share! Recent data shows we are turning the corner on COVID-19 and the havoc it has wreaked in our community. We want to thank everyone for the determination, strength, and collaboration that has enabled us to provide the best possible opportunities for our students, staff and community during the COVID 19 Pandemic. We are winning this long battle with COVID-19.

Over the past two years, LUSD has been focused on its areas of expertise – education, supporting our students and families, and always ensuring the well being of our students and staff. During this time, we have implemented multiple layers of COVID-19 mitigation strategies. These strategies have been deemed necessary by the CDPH and Cal/OSHA, because they have been proven effective to keep school open for in-person instruction, and students and staff as safe as possible.

On Monday, the Governor announced California is joining our neighboring states of Washington and Oregon in lifting the school mask mandate effective at 11:59 PM on Friday, March 11, 2022. The current mask mandate continues to be in effect in California schools until that date.

After March 11th, masks in schools and other indoor settings are “strongly recommended” as a continued mitigation strategy against COVID-19. The Governor is now giving flexibility to allow masking choice in schools and by executive order, has already aligned Cal/OSHA masking guidance for employees to the new CDPH guidance.

LUSD will continue to work collaboratively with the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Office and the Kern County Department of Public Health to ensure that our schools continue to remain open for in-person instruction and that students and staff are safe. All other CDPH requirements will remain in place for the time being. Education staff, parents and students are to be commended for their patience and concern for each other as we have navigated this pandemic together.

We welcome this news, as COVID-19 rates continue to decline and we learn more about the successful strategies being utilized to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on our students and families.