



DATE: March 9, 2022

TO: Chabot-Las Positas Community College District

FROM: Chancellor Ronald Gerhard, CLPCCD

SUBJECT: Mask Mandate to Remain in Place and be Reassessed after Spring Break

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I would like to provide clarity regarding the district's mask mandate after the Alameda County Public Health Department (ACPHD) shared a local assessment late last week. In their [press release](#), the ACPHD indicates that Alameda County will align with the state's new guidance to move masking requirements in school settings to strong recommendations after March 11. That said, for many reasons specific to our district, we will continue to keep our indoor mask mandate in place and reassess this policy after spring break.

We have learned to coexist with COVID-19 for the last two years. Throughout this time, it has become apparent how diverse our individual situations are and how differently we have experienced the pandemic. Some of us are part of communities where case rates are among the highest in the county and others have personal health issues that make us or members of our household more vulnerable to the virus. As a unified college district, we have sought to implement safety measures that provide the greatest level of protection to those that need it in order to safely learn, teach, and work on our campuses and in our district offices.

It is important to highlight that the new state and county guidance still strongly recommends the use of masks while in school, and we recognize that masking remains a critical layer of protection. When we began our planning last fall for a safe return to face-to-face instruction this spring, both vaccine and mask requirements were included in that planning. By keeping this policy in place at this moment in time, we seek to limit disruption that could impact instruction and other support services.

Additionally, keeping our indoor mask mandate in place allows our community to begin to prepare for possible changes and understand how those changes will impact them. It also gives us the opportunity to have conversations with our stakeholder groups to ensure that any easing of our safety measures is done thoughtfully and with the most vulnerable members of our community in mind. Thank you for your continued partnership.