



DATE: May 4, 2022
TO: Chabot-Las Positas Community College District
FROM: Chancellor Ronald Gerhard, CLPCCD
SUBJECT: CLPCCD Mask Mandate Update

Thank you for your continued patience and partnership as we have navigated the many challenges that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic. In a March communication on this topic, we shared that a decision regarding the district's mask mandate would be provided after the spring break recess, once data was available to determine the best course of action for the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District. **Today, I am writing to share that our district's mask mandate will expire on June 3, 2022 at 11:59 p.m.** This decision was reached after considering continued low hospitalization rates, relatively low case rates, and further relaxed guidance from the CDC and Cal/OSHA.

COVID-19 continues to circulate in our area and we know that this news could leave some in our community feeling concerned. Please know that we understand those concerns and that this decision was made after careful consideration of our local data, guidance from public health agencies, and after consultation from our constituency leadership. We are appreciative for the many collaborative conversations we had with students, faculty, classified professionals, and administrators to come to this decision.

After June 3rd, masking indoors will be optional, a move that aligns with current guidelines and recommendations given that our county is considered to be "low risk." That said, one lesson we can take from our experience with the pandemic is that we need to be prepared for unexpected changes. We have been carefully planning a transition to a new tiered system (recommended by the Alameda County Public Health Department) that will allow us to respond quickly and appropriately to changing conditions. This tiered system will use color codes to let our community know if our county is in a high, medium, or low risk category for infection and if mask requirements need to be reinstated to maximize safety in our work and learning environments.

A graphic titled "Safe Work Practices" with a construction worker icon on the left and the Chabot Las Positas logo on the right. The main heading is "PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT" in a blue box. Below it are three bullet points detailing mask requirements for High Risk (red), Medium Risk (yellow), and Low Risk (green) areas.

Safe Work Practices

PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- **High Risk** (red):
 - Masks are required for all individuals, **regardless of vaccination status**, indoors in all District and College locations.
- **Medium Risk** (yellow):
 - Masks are required for all individuals, **regardless of vaccination status**, in classrooms and laboratories and all areas identified by "Dark Purple- Public Specialized areas" on the Safe Work Practices Zone Maps for each location.
- **Low Risk** (green):
 - Masks are optional in all District and College locations.

The district's Safe Work Practices are being updated to comply with current guidelines and recommendations for COVID-19. Please access the following link to the **required training** webinar prior to May 31, 2022. The training addresses the updates to the five (5) areas identified in our practices, including the revisions to the masking requirement. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Register for the webinar: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2924308827024756492>

Our community has experienced great loss, anguish, and frustration due to the pandemic and we have strived as a district to make the best decisions to preserve the health and well-being of our most vulnerable students, faculty, classified professionals, and administrators. As we move into this new phase of our safety response, I encourage us all to continue to be empathetic to the different risk assessments others might be making in choosing to continue to wear a mask. Please see below for additional information in response to frequently asked questions we've been receiving on this topic.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: If I'm at higher risk for complications due to COVID-19, can I require that employees and students wear a mask when present in my immediate work area, regardless of the current threat level outlined by the three-tier system?

A: Yes. While our district will transition to a mask-optional policy after June 3rd, Cal-OSHA states that individuals may set mask standards for their personal work space. Signs indicating this requirement in specific work areas must be prominently posted in the entrances to those work areas. The campus community is encouraged to continue to carry a mask in anticipation of entering spaces where a face covering may be required. The district will continue to provide masks to all employees who request a mask, per Cal/OSHA guidance.

Q: How will this new masking guidance impact those who are unvaccinated?

A: The Cal/OSHA Standards Board met on April 21, 2022 and formally adopted a third version of the COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS). The updated ETS removes the definition for the term "fully vaccinated." As a result of this change, the amended regulations no longer distinguish between employees based on their vaccination status, including on such subjects as the use of face coverings, the provision of respirators, and the testing of symptomatic employees. The updated regulations eliminate the requirement that employees who are not fully vaccinated wear face coverings indoors and in vehicles.

Q: How will the district community be notified of changes in the county's risk level that could again require the temporary reinstatement of a mask mandate?

A: Any future districtwide masking protocols will be decided in accordance with local public health guidance. The ACPHD will be providing updates on the county's current risk level on Thursday of each week, and any needed protocol changes would apply for the following calendar week (Sunday through Saturday). Any potential changes in guidance will be communicated on the district and college websites, via on-campus signage, and through email.

Q: I have additional questions regarding the upcoming change to the masking policy. How can I seek answers to those questions?

A: Shifts in our safety practices will understandably lead to many questions. Email us at prmg@clpccd.org if have additional questions that were not addressed in this communication. Your questions will help us expand this FAQ section, which will remain available at <http://districtazure.clpccd.org/urgentalerts/index.php>