



November 19, 2021 – Via electronic delivery

Governor Gavin Newsom  
Dr. Sohil Sud, CDPH  
Dr. Tomás Aragón , CDPH  
Senator Andreas Borgeas  
Assemblymember Frank Bigelow  
Sacramento, CA

Dear California Leaders;

This joint letter is in response to the mandate, announced by Governor Gavin Newsom on October 1, 2021, that all students be vaccinated for COVID-19 as a requirement for them to attend California schools in person upon full approval by the Federal Food & Drug Administration (FDA). It is important to understand the challenges this mandate is already creating for our school community. We anticipate the implementation of a COVID-19 vaccination mandate, without an exemption for medical, religious or personal beliefs, will deeply impact schools at a time when enrollment numbers are already declining, and staffing shortages are a huge concern.

We have been very successful in keeping our schools open with the current mask and testing protocols, however, this directive will put the districts of Calaveras County in jeopardy. Our initial analysis indicates **we could lose 50% or more of our students** from in-person instruction and/or enrollment in our schools as well as a potential loss of staff. If either of these happens, it will dramatically impact the staffing and funding for our schools and will put all of them in financial distress or ruin.

Since the very beginning of the response to this pandemic, State regulations have been mandated, placing much of the burden for communication, implementation, and enforcement entirely on principals, teachers, staff, administrators, and school boards. With the responsibility to implement these mandates, school boards and administrators are left to manage the real frustrations of large portions of our public, taking time and focus away from our critical mission of serving students and supporting teachers and staff. The resulting divisions within some communities are eroding the trust and partnerships that are essential in public schools. In order for us to do our job of educating youth during this difficult time, it is imperative that you hear our request:

***The Superintendents of Calaveras County Schools ask that the State of California maintains the medical, religious, and personal exemptions with regard to the COVID-19 vaccination requirement.***

Sincerely,

*Scott Nanik, Calaveras County Office of Education*

*Mike Chimente, Bret Harte Union High School District*

*Mark Campbell, Calaveras Unified School District*

*Paula Wyant, Mark Twain Union Elementary School District*

*Tom Hoskins, Vallecito Union School District*

cc: Karen Stapf Walters, CCSESA

Brooks Allen, State Board of Education

Ben Chida, Governor's Office

Assemblymember Anthony Rendon

Senator Toni Atkins

Dr. Rene Ramirez, Calaveras County Public Health Officer