

## Soledad Unified School District

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Randy Bangs  
*Superintendent*

1261 Metz Rd., Soledad, CA 93960

### **Message regarding New COVID Health Guidance**

July 12, 2021

Dear Soledad School District Community,

Today, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) released updated [K-12 Schools Guidance](#) which modifies previous guidance to create only one requirement for all schools for the 2021-2022 school year - the wearing of masks indoors by all individuals on school campuses, no matter vaccination status. In accordance with [CDC guidance released on Friday, July 9, 2021](#), California will align with this guidance by implementing the multiple mitigation strategies of continued mask guidance and robust testing capacity, while not recommending physical distancing due to the obstacles it would present to California schools' full reopening.

**What does this mean for the Soledad Unified School District?** As has been announced, The Soledad USD will fully reopen its schools for in-person instruction on Wednesday, August 11. Students will be welcomed back for full-day, 5-day per week instruction.

In order to reopen our schools for all students, face masks will continue to be required for all students and staff while indoors on campus in addition to other strategies such as hand-washing, sanitizing, and making vaccinations available for those students who qualify by their age.

Masking is a simple and effective intervention that does not interfere with offering full in-person instruction. Students should be able to walk into school without worrying about whether they will feel different or singled out for being vaccinated or unvaccinated – treating all kids the same will support a calm and supportive school environment. Having masks on while indoors provides protection for all.

Schools serve children under the age of 12, who don't have the option of being vaccinated. So it is important that prevention measures are in place to continue to protect those that are not vaccinated.

In addition to the face mask requirements, the district will undertake other measures to support the health and safety of students and staff. The district will partner with the Soledad Medical Clinic to offer COVID vaccination clinics for students ages 12 and over. Additionally, the District is planning implementation of a rapid COVID testing program.

We will continue to provide updates as they become available.

Sincerely,

*Randy Bangs*

Randy Bangs,  
Superintendent