

To All Faculty, Staff, Students, and Visitors:

Beginning Wednesday, December 15, 2021, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) will require masks to be worn in all indoor public settings irrespective of vaccine status through January 15, 2022, at which point California will make further recommendations as needed in response to the pandemic.

Additionally, CDPH updated requirements for attending mega events, like concerts and sporting events. Prior to attending an event, attendees will now require either proof of vaccination, a negative antigen COVID-19 test within one day of the event, or a negative PCR test within two days of the event.

Accordingly, Palo Verde Community College District will require masks to be worn in all indoor public settings irrespective of vaccine status beginning Wednesday, December 15, 2021, through January 15, 2022, or until such time as this statewide mandate is amended or terminated.

Exemptions to the mask requirements are in the last paragraph of the CDPH's "Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings," issued on December 13, 2021

(<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx>):

Exemptions to masks requirements

The following **individuals** are exempt from wearing masks at all times:

- Persons younger than two years old. Very young children must not wear a mask because of the risk of suffocation.
- Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a mask. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a mask could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a mask without assistance.
- Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
- Persons for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.

If you think you are covered by one of the above exemptions, please contact Human Resources with your request for an exemption.

Regards,

Donald G. Wallace, Ph.D.

Superintendent/President

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