



Press Release

April 15, 2022

COVID Vaccination Update

Last night, the California Department of Public Health announced that the student vaccine mandate (that included a personal belief exemption) will be delayed until, no sooner than July 1, 2023. This announcement comes as the FDA has not yet fully approved the COVID-19 vaccine for individuals of all ages within the 7-12 grade span. The Governor's Administration was waiting for the FDA approval before engaging members of the public in the rulemaking process for adding the COVID-19 vaccine to the list of required vaccines for public school students. The full announcement delaying the mandatory start of the COVID-19 vaccine can be found here:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/OPA/Pages/NR22-073.aspx>

Earlier yesterday (April 14th), it was announced that Senate Bill (SB) 871 (by Senator Pan) will not proceed. This bill applied specifically to updating the requirement for children to attend public child-care or school by adding the COVID-19 vaccine to the list of immunizations required for enrollment, potentially **prior to full FDA approval**. This bill would have also removed the personal belief exemption for COVID-19 and any future vaccines added to the list by the legislature or CDPH, including **removal of the personal belief exemption** currently included in the Governor's October 1 plan. You can read Dr. Pan's full statement here:

https://sd06.senate.ca.gov/news/2022-04-14-state-senator-dr-richard-pan-statement-holding-school-vaccination-requirement?fbclid=IwAR1F5FBWYVffzgDXAfEZ4SqnKIMBzpD_jKiV6jnfewCnSo8ctn9e1xfg7k4

Shasta County Superintendent of Schools Judy Flores wrote a letter to state leadership, including the governor and legislators, back in November 2021 that was signed in support by almost all of the district superintendents. That letter asked legislators to not move forward with legislation to require a COVID vaccine this spring.

Judy Flores shared this morning: "It is great to see that for at least the school year ahead the COVID-19 vaccine won't keep students out of school - allowing all students to have access and opportunities provided by our schools."