

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-53

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-53, REQUEST TO THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH (CDPH) FOR THE EXPEDITIOUS REVISION OF FACE COVERING GUIDANCE FOR SCHOOLS AND SCHOOL-BASED PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, The Capistrano Unified School District (CUSD), serving over 47,000 students in Southern Orange County, has been a leader in getting students back in the classroom while following all California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidelines; and

WHEREAS, California school districts are required to follow best practices as defined by the CDPH Guidelines; and

WHEREAS, CUSD has closely monitored all COVID-19 reported cases and has not had one verified case of transmission on a school campus, per the Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA) guidelines; and

WHEREAS, California has already been severely impacted in both economic and education sectors by the state shutdown to curtail the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, School aged children are less likely to contract and transmit COVID-19, and are less likely to have serious outcomes than older populations; and

WHEREAS, Current infection rates have dramatically fallen, along with COVID-19 deaths, with an increasing numbers of individuals being vaccinated and achieving post disease immunity; and

WHEREAS, Students and families have reported an increase of rashes, eye infections, headaches, asthmatic symptoms, and anxiety related to wearing masks; and

WHEREAS, Students who are 12 years of age and older have the option, with parent permission, to be vaccinated, while those younger than 12 may be taught in stable cohorts; and

WHEREAS, Restrictions on capacity, distancing and use of masks in other sectors have been lifted to allow unmasked groups of all ages at both indoor and outdoor venues; and

WHEREAS, face coverings disproportionately impact children who are learning English as a second language, early elementary students who are still learning proper pronunciation and grammar, and those with speech and hearing disabilities; and

WHEREAS, CUSD relies on immediate CDPH guidance to be able to plan for the 2021-2022 school year; and

WHEREAS, many CUSD parents and students have expressed their strong desire for school masking requirements to be lifted; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of the Capistrano Unified School District requests that the CDPH immediately provide new face covering guidance for schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees of the Capistrano Unified School District, hereby gives voice to the desires expressed by many District families and students by approving this resolution requesting that the CDPH expeditiously revise the face covering guidance for California schools and school programs; and

THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That the Superintendent of the Capistrano Unified School District is directed to transmit this Resolution to Governor Gavin Newsom; Director and State Public Health Officer CDPH, Dr. Tomas J. Aragon; Dr. Mark Ghaly, California Health and Human Services; Doug Parker, Chief, Cal/OSHA; Orange County Board of Supervisors; and Dr. Clayton Chao, Orange County Health Care Agency (OCHCA); Assemblywoman Laurie Davies; Senator Pat Bates; and the Orange County Board of Education to make known the concerns of District parents and families regarding the school masking mandate.

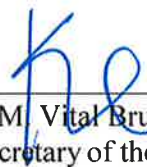
PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Trustees of the Capistrano Unified School District on June 23, 2021, by the following vote:

AYES	(5)	Trustees Braunstein, Bullockus, Davis, Jones, and McNicholas
NOES	(2)	Trustees Castellanos, Hanacek
ABSTAIN	(0)	
ABSENT	(0)	

I, Kirsten M. Vital Brulte, Secretary of the Capistrano Unified School District Board of Trustees hereby certify that the above and foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the said Board at the meeting on June 23, 2021, by a roll call vote.



Gila Jones
Clerk of the Board of Trustees



Kirsten M. Vital Brulte, Superintendent
Secretary of the Board of Trustees