

## From the Chancellor's Desk



COVID Advisory, KCCD 5-Question survey, Facilities Seminar

July 30, 2021

KCCD Colleagues:

Wanted to share with you the information that I am reading related to the upward swing of COVID cases with the Delta Variant, the vaccination landscape, and new information about the protocol for wearing masks.

My takeaways:

1. Continue to stay away from large gatherings and continue wearing masks.
2. CSUs, UCs, the state of California, and the Federal government are all requiring vaccinations for those who will be doing business face-to-face. Of course, there are the exemptions for medical and religious reasons.

Before I get to the section where I have collated a few of the articles that popped into my news feed, I invite you to participate in the Campus Survey sent out by Bob Ngo, Director-KCCD Institutional Research.



*As we prepare to welcome our Kern Community College community back to our campuses, we are gathering information to help us provide a safe and productive environment for all employees and students. A survey link has been emailed to faculty and staff throughout the district, and we ask that you take a couple of minutes to fill out this 5 question survey that will help us with planning for everyone's return to the office.*

*The survey will be closed on Wednesday August 4th 2021 at 11:59PM.*

*This survey is completely anonymous and responses will never be linked back to individual employees. Emails will only be used during the data collection period to send reminders to those who have not completed the survey. After the data collection period is complete, all links to email will be deleted.*

*We will share the results of the survey at an aggregated level with all staff. Data will be used for planning purposes only.*

*I appreciate your cooperation in filling out your survey. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Ngo at [bob.ngo@kccd.edu](mailto:bob.ngo@kccd.edu).*

## **COVID-19 Updates**

Here are some of the articles collated for you.

### **July 29, 2021: White House Mandate Vaccines or Regular Testing**



The White House announced this week that it will require all federal employees to provide proof of vaccinations. Those who do not agree to provide proof of vaccination must provide a negative test for COVID on a weekly basis, wear a mask at all times, socially distance from other employees, and will not be allowed to travel for work.

[The US Department of Veteran Affairs had previously announced](#) that it is requiring COVID vaccinations for all health-care personnel who work in veterans' hospitals. [At a press conference on Thursday](#), July 29 President Biden said that he consulted with the Justice Department to determine that mandating the COVID-19 vaccines is legal, and he will apply similar standards to the employees of federal contractors.

### **July 28, 2021: CDC Reverses Decision on Masking Indoors for Fully Vaccinated People**

Ahead of a predicted third wave of infections anticipated for this fall, [the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have recommended that fully vaccinated people should begin wearing masks indoors again](#), especially in places with high COVID-19 transmission rates. CDC Director Rochelle Walensky reported on new data that indicates that vaccinated people can get infected with the delta variant and spread it to others, particularly to unvaccinated people who are exponentially more likely to develop severe symptoms and require hospitalization. The guidelines also recommend masking of all teachers, staff, students and visitors at schools, regardless of vaccination status.

## July 27, 2021: CSU Announces Vaccine Mandate

a [press release on Tuesday, July 27](#), the California State University System announced they would also be requiring COVID-19 vaccines for all students, faculty and staff who are accessing campus facilities at any university location. Previously, the CSU had announced they would be mandating vaccines contingent on one or more of the vaccines receiving full FDA approval. Compliance dates will vary between campuses, but all certifications must be completed by September 30.

"The current surge in COVID cases due to the spread of the highly infectious Delta variant is an alarming new factor that we must consider as we look to maintain the health and well-being of students, employees and visitors to our campuses this fall," said CSU Chancellor Joseph I. Castro.



## California Community Colleges Acting Chancellor, Board of Governors President urge vaccinations

In a [press release on Tuesday, July 27](#), Acting Community Colleges Chancellor Daisy Gonzales and Board of Governors President Pamela Haynes urged all students, faculty, and staff to get vaccinated if they haven't already.

The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office does not have the legal authority to require vaccinations system-wide, but they are encouraging local districts to adopt vaccination mandates - with flexibility for those who cannot get vaccinated for medical or religious reasons.



## July 26, 2021: California Requiring Vaccines or Regular Testing For State Employees

On Monday, July 26, [Governor Newsom announced](#) that all state employees will be required to show proof of vaccination by August 2 or be subject to weekly testing for COVID-19. State health-care workers and congregate facilities must be in compliance with the order by August 23.

[In the press release](#), Governor Newsom also mentions that higher education institutions are encouraged to share information about the Vaccinate ALL 58 campaign and to get more of their students protected against COVID-19.



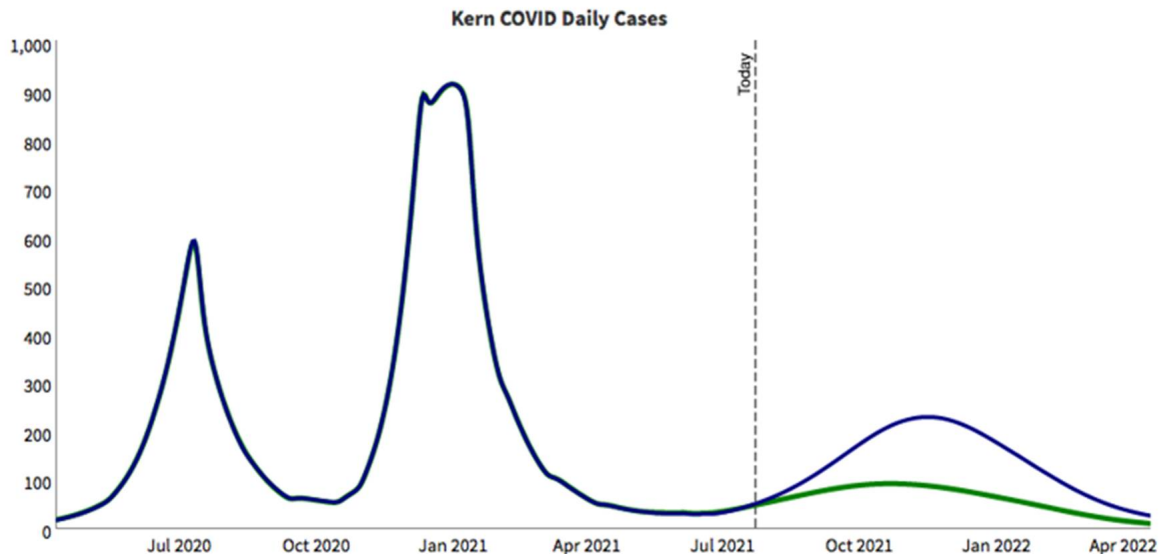
## July 15, 2021: UC Approves Final policy on COVID-19 vaccination policy

[In a press release published July 15](#), the University of California system has released its approved final policy regarding COVID-19 vaccinations on campus. The UCs will require all students, faculty and staff to be vaccinated with a few medical exceptions, and compliance with the policy will be required two weeks before the start of the fall semester.

Guidelines for how the policy will be implemented system-wide are still being finalized.



## COVID-19 cases in Kern County Double In Just One Week



*A predictive model published by the California Department of Public Health is anticipating a third wave of coronavirus infections to hit Kern County this fall, [according to a report by Sam Morgen of the Bakersfield Californian](#).*

As the delta variant spreads across Kern County, county public health Director Brynn Carrigan gave a report to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, July 27 where she states that case rates have jumped from 2.5 per 100,000 just last week to 6.6 per 100,000 this week, [according to Joseph Luiz of KGET](#). If the Blueprint for a Safer Economy were reinstated, Kern County would be in the red tier. Currently, only 36 percent of Kern County residents are fully vaccinated against COVID-19, [according to the Taft Midway Driller](#).

Let's all remember to take care of each other by staying safe: get vaccinated, wear a mask, keep the 6ft distance, wash your hands.

I look forward to seeing you at the next seminar on Monday, August 2nd at 4:00 p.m. If you have not registered yet, click here:

[https://cccconfer.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_TlOIxhSgRxGykizAdWbklg](https://cccconfer.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_TlOIxhSgRxGykizAdWbklg)

**Chancellor's Seminar Series**  
Returning to our physical locations - A Look at Facilities

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 <b>Sonya Christian</b> Chancellor	 <b>Todd Coston</b> Associate Vice Chancellor, Planning and Educational Technology	 <b>Randy Rowles</b> Associate Vice Chancellor Construction and Facilities Planning	
 <b>Cody Pauxtis</b> Director, Maintenance & Operations Cerro Coso Community College	 <b>John Word</b> Director, Maintenance & Operations Porterville College	 <b>Marcos Rodriguez</b> Executive Director, Facilities & Operations Bakersfield College	 <b>Don Birdwell</b> Building Facility Manager KCCD District Office
August 2, 2021 4:00pm	#KCCDLearns	 	 

That's a wrap for now.

The future remains bright at KCCD!

With much warmth and collegiality  
sonya

[See all issues \*From the Chancellor's Desk\*](#)

