

California Chapter 2

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Press Release

Pediatricians in Support of SBUSD Resolution No. 2021/2022-09

September 23, 2021

Pediatricians applaud all school districts who have instituted vaccine mandates for staff and strongly support Santa Barbara Unified School District's proposed resolution No. 2021/2022-09, which would ensure that in the 2021/2022 school year, all Certified and Classified staff will be required to be vaccinated.

SBUSD's proposed staff vaccine mandate is rooted in the scientific evidence that vaccines are safe, effective, and play an imperative role in protecting children from COVID-19. With the recent rise in the delta variant, COVID-19 cases have dramatically risen among the overall population in Santa Barbara County (<https://www.latimes.com/projects/california-coronavirus-cases-tracking-outbreak/santa-barbara-county/#trends>) and among the pediatric population (<https://www.aappublications.org/news/2021/09/03/covid-delta-variant-children-hospitalizations-090321>). School based vaccination mandates are imperative for limiting the spread of COVID and ensuring the safety of children.

Resolution No. 2021/2022-09 is a crucial step in ensuring that Santa Barbara County children continue to have access to in-person learning. "We need to ensure that all children have access to safe in-person learning," says Dr. Karinne Van Groningen, pediatrician and Legislative and Policy Analyst for Southern California Chapter 2 of the American Academy of Pediatrics, "SBUSD's staff vaccine mandate is critical in making this happen."

The Southern California Chapter 2 of the American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 1,500 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety, and well-being of infants, children, adolescents, and young adults.

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