

**BUTTE COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION PRESS RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 17, 2021**

Butte County Schools and COVID-19

Butte County, California — With the start of the 2021-22 full in-person school year, new COVID-19 guidelines issued by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) for all California K-12 schools have prompted questions from community members. The Butte County Office of Education (BCOE) has collaborated with Butte County Public Health (BCPH) and local school district Superintendents to create an FAQ in response to questions from the community.

The continued goal of the BCOE and Butte County educators is to offer students access to high-quality education while providing a safe learning environment for both students and staff. This universal goal is supported by the CDPH and the most updated guidance for K-12 schools in California.

Due to the number of questions received, the continuously changing circumstances of COVID-19, and the spread of variants, BCOE has created a COVID-19 Resources web page. Information and guidance from CDPH, BCPH and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will be linked on the webpage. An FAQ in response to the questions from parents and the community will be posted on the web page.

Mary Sakuma, the Butte County Superintendent of Schools, shares that “every educator wants to provide children the opportunity to learn in a safe environment. First and foremost, we are educators; that is our role. We acknowledge that parents and community members have concerns and questions. We will continue to provide information as it becomes available.” Superintendent Sakuma encourages families to remain respectful of educational leaders and the position in which they have been placed. She adds that “during this pandemic, we have seen teachers, school staff, and administrators pivot time and time again to adapt to new guidance while continuing to fulfill their duties as educators. What educators across the nation have done, and continue to do, deserves recognition and respect.”

BCOE does not have the authority to enforce that school districts comply with State guidance but is ready to support all schools to meet the State COVID-19 safety measures, including those that must be in place by October 15, 2021 for all school employees. In addition, BCOE will continue to monitor state guidance and provide information, including FAQs when necessary, on its own COVID-19 Resources web page. BCOE encourages families to continue taking precautions against the spread of COVID-19. If we all do our part, we can keep Butte County schools open for in-person instruction.

###

View the [COVID-19 & Butte County Schools FAQ](#) for answers to common questions regarding schools.

Visit the [Butte County Office of Education COVID-19 Resources web page](#) for additional information.

Visit the [Butte County Public Health COVID-19 Updates web page](#) for community resources and public testing information.

