

Addendum to the CPP for the PVUSD Head Start Program

As a federally funded program, Head Start has some additional regulations above and beyond state, county, and local school district regulation. On November 30, 2021 the Office of Head Start (OHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released the following ruling (Docket # -ACF-2021-0003, RIN # -0970-AC90):

“This interim final rule with comment (IFC) adds new provisions to the Head Start Program Performance Standards to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Head Start programs. This IFC requires effective upon publication, universal masking for all individuals two years of age and older, with some noted exceptions, and all Head Start staff, contractors whose activities involve contact with or providing direct services to children and families, and volunteers working in classrooms or directly with children to be vaccinated for COVID-19 by January 31, 2022.”

This IFC adds provisions to the Head Start Program Performance Standards to impose three requirements:

(1) Universal masking, with some noted exceptions, for all individuals two years of age and older when there are two or more individuals in a vehicle owned, leased, or arranged by the Head Start program; when they are indoors in a setting where Head Start services are provided; and, for those not fully vaccinated, outdoors in crowded settings or during activities that involve close contact with other people. This requirement is effective immediately.

*Under V. Provisions of the Interim Final Rule; section A. Masking Requirement clarification is given regarding masking outdoors:

” The Office of Head Start notes that being outdoors with children inherently includes sustained close contact for the purposes of caring for and supervising children.”

(2) Vaccination for COVID-19 for Head Start program staff, certain contractors and volunteers by January 31, 2021.

(3) For those granted an exemption to the requirement specified in (2), at least weekly testing for current SARS-CoV-2 infection.

The full PDF version can be found at <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2021-11-30/pdf/2021-25869.pdf> and more information can be found at <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/> .