

NEWS BRIEF

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California Mandates COVID-19 Vaccines for Eligible Students

On Friday, Oct. 1, 2021, California announced that all eligible students will need to be vaccinated against COVID-19, potentially starting next fall. California is the first state to adopt such a requirement.

The mandate, applicable for both public and private schools, would be effective for grades seven through 12. Once a vaccine is approved for younger children, the vaccination requirement would be extended to include students in kindergarten through sixth grade.

Gov. Gavin Newsom of California said the vaccination mandate is expected to roll out before next fall's school year, potentially as soon as July 2022 for grades seven and up.



"We want to end this pandemic. We are all exhausted by it."

- Gov. Gavin Newsom



Notably, California's vaccination requirement differs from [other mandates](#) announced in recent months: Parents can cite personal beliefs as a reason for not vaccinating their children.

Since the mandate is enforced through a regulatory process, its rules have greater exceptions than laws do. It's possible that the California Legislature may choose to remove the personal belief exception in the future by passing a specific law. Until then, the exception will remain.

What's Next?

California residents with school-aged children should be prepared for this upcoming vaccination requirement and stay updated on the developing situation. It's possible the mandate will face legal challenges before its rollout in 2022.

In any case, California's targeted efforts may indicate how other states could proceed in this area in the near future—potentially imposing their own mandates on public and private institutions.

Stay tuned for more updates on this story in the coming months.

