

# The LEFT SIDE



by Maicah Cabello, Design Director

The vaccine mandate is a humanitarian topic. It is about preventing the spread of the coronavirus, decreasing hospitalization rates, and being able to move past the ways of "Covid living."

I think what trips people up the most is the freedom of choice. The Bill of Rights guarantees individuals the right to personal autonomy, which in essence means the government can't butt into a person's decisions that affect their personal life.

When a portion of the population decides not to get vaccinated, they are deciding the health of those around them. By continuing to be a vulnerable carrier, mutations are given the chance to happen, and spread continues to be an issue. Delta and other variants are given the chance to thrive and develop enough to bypass the original vaccine, affecting the whole population—even those who chose to be vaccinated. If this is a matter of free decisions, not getting vaccinated is forcing a decision for the rest of the population.

If something is mandatory it's bound to sound scary. It means that you pretty much have to comply or be restricted from everyday activities, a type of ultimatum. However, vaccinations have been around since all of us were children. Mandatory vaccinations like DTaP, IPV, and Varicella (mandatory in all 50 states) were a part of our elementary and middle school days, whether we remember the needles or not. This is not a new concept.

The science and research behind vaccinations has been developed for years. Any rare side effects have been reported as less risky than the COVID-19 side effects by multiple sources. I don't know the exact science and inner workings behind vaccines. But I do know that Google is free for your own learning. And I know science teachers on campus are more than willing to explain it, if you are more than willing to listen.



Christopher Smith: History and technical Theater Teacher.

**29%**  
SUPPORT  
VACCINE  
MANDATE

## After being the first state to enforce mask and staff requiring a COVID-19 vaccine for students

After being the first state to enforce mask and staff-vaccination mandates, California announced plans of requiring a COVID-19 vaccine for students to attend in-person learning on October 1.

From a news conference at James Denman Middle School in San Francisco, Governor Gavin Newsom shared with California residents that the mandate would begin to go into effect following approval

from the Food and Drug

Administration (FDA). Once approved, the requirement will be implemented for grades 7-12 in the school term following the approval. Currently, that is anticipated to happen in January 2022, or in July 2022 before next school year. Requirements for grades K-6 will be put into place in months after that, based on age.

"Vaccines work. It's why California leads the country in preventing school closures and has the lowest case rates. We encourage other states to follow our lead to keep our kids safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19," Newsom said.

A survey was shared on Oct. 20 with PRHS students about the news of a potential mandate.

Of the 335 students that participated, 49.9 percent opposed a possible vaccine mandate, 29 percent supported the mandate, and 21.2 percent were neutral on the subject.

164 of the surveyed students have been vaccinated and 171 have not.

82 percent of 750 employees in Paso Robles School District have been vaccinated. Those who have not been vaccinated are required to receive a COVID test once a week.

EVERY STUDENT HAS ALREADY GOTTEN VACCINES TO ATTEND SCHOOL, ADDING ONE MORE, ESPECIALLY ONE THAT HAS BEEN PROVEN SAFE AND VERY EFFECTIVE IN FIGHTING THIS GLOBAL PANDEMIC, SHOULDN'T BE CONTROVERSIAL.

CHRISTOPHER SMITH

Special education teacher at PRHS. Ryan Allan is in opposition to mandating the vaccine.

"My position is simple. If people want to get vaccinated then they should, but I believe they should also have a choice. I know people who are against getting

vaccinated for medical and/or religious reasons, and I think both of these reasons are valid," Allan said. "The state or federal government should not coerce us into putting a substance into our bodies that we don't want."

On the contrary, history and technical theater teacher Christopher Smith supports mandating the vaccine.

"Vaccine mandates for schools are nothing

82 percent of 750 employees in Paso Robles School District have been vaccinated. Those who have not been vaccinated are required to receive a COVID test once a week.



21% were neutral on the subject



Scan here: Students across California protest against the COVID-19 mandate

Survey of 335 students

# TO VAX OR NOT TO VAX

## vaccination mandates, California announced plans of to attend in-person learning on Oct. 1

by Elise Mathers, News Editor

to attend school, adding one more, especially one that has been proven safe and very effective in fighting this global pandemic, shouldn't be controversial," Smith said.

The state of California requires 13 vaccinations for students to attend school. When entering Kindergarten children are required to be vaccinated for Polio Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis (DTaP) Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) Hepatitis B, and Varicella (Chickenpox). To go into the 7th grade, students must have the Chickenpox vaccine, as well as a Tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis booster (Tdap), all of which have been approved by the FDA.

Deputy Superintendent of Paso Robles Joint Unified Jennifer Gaviola remarked on the speedy timeline of the COVID-19 vaccine.

"I understand that people are concerned about the pandemic, and I get that and they don't ever want schools to close again --nor do I -- but it is an interesting timeline that you'd have a mandate for a vaccine that had not yet been approved for a child to even take," Gaviola said.

As of Oct. 29, the FDA gave authorization for the Pfizer vaccination to be given to children ages 5-11 under emergency use.

On Oct. 18, students participated in a "vaccine walkout day" in which students stayed home from school in protest of the mandate. Paso Robles School District saw 1,780 absences across the elementary, middle, and high schools. 62 percent of unvaccinated

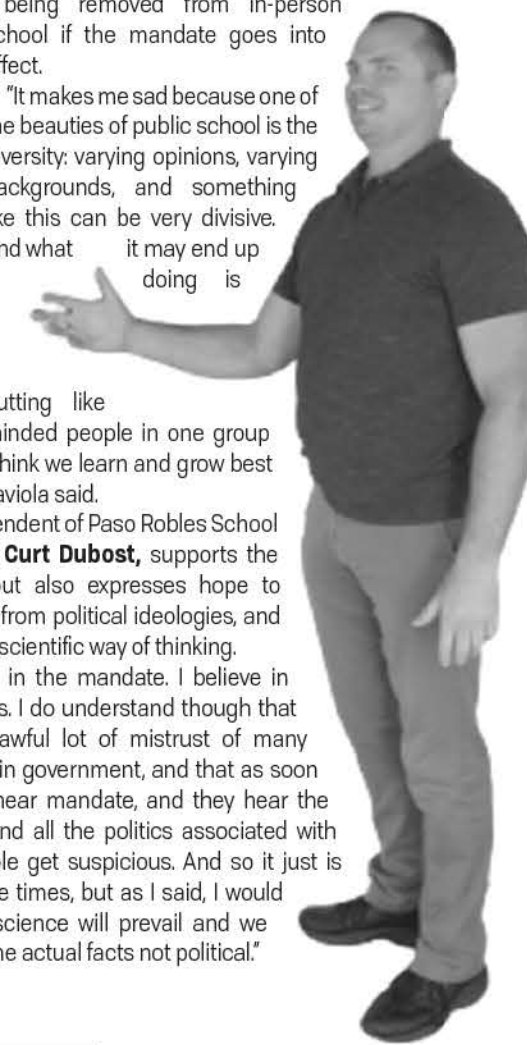
students from the Oct. survey stated that they have discussed being removed from in-person school if the mandate goes into effect.

"It makes me sad because one of the beauties of public school is the diversity: varying opinions, varying backgrounds, and something like this can be very divisive. And what it may end up doing is

putting like minded people in one group and I don't think we learn and grow best that way," Gaviola said.

Superintendent of Paso Robles School District, Dr. Curt Dubost, supports the mandate, but also expresses hope to move away from political ideologies, and into a more scientific way of thinking.

"I believe in the mandate. I believe in vaccinations. I do understand though that there's an awful lot of mistrust of many institutions in government, and that as soon as people hear mandate, and they hear the history of and all the politics associated with it that people get suspicious. And so it just is a sign of the times, but as I said, I would hope that science will prevail and we can get some actual facts not political."



Ryan Allen: Special Education Teacher

**50%**  
OPPOSED  
VACCINE  
MANDATE

# The RIGHT SIDE



by Tony Garcia, Podcast Director

Hypocrisy: as I walk around the halls of PRHS I can't help

but see hypocrisy written all over campus. The uniform signs that say "Face Masks Required Indoors Regardless of Vaccination Status" pose as contradictions when I walk into the office or certain classrooms and see maskless adults bustling about and interacting with those who come in. However we as students are told we will be sent to the office, marked down, or sent home if we don't wear a mask regardless of vaccination status? Hypocrisy.

And if the vaccine is meant to protect us, why are student and teachers with the vaccine still required to wear a mask? Hypocrisy.

Putting the hipocracy of mask wearing at school aside...Newsom's recent vaccine mandate which may very well be in effect by the beginning of next school year will require students K-12 to take the Covid vaccine in order to attend public school. But with half the transmissibility than adults—according to the CDC—and a 0.005 percent mortality rate in kids 0-18 (CDPH), I ask; why would we inject a shot into our children that is causing side effects like Myocarditis? Myocarditis is an infection that weakens the heart and can suddenly kill you, and according to National Center for Biotechnology Information, there is a 50 percent chance of death five years down the road. This side effect has been seen in young kids, especially males and has been enough of a problem that the FDA and CDC have issued warnings and reports on the spikes of Myocarditis and Pericarditis cases.

So with the small transmissibility, the almost nonexistent mortality rate, and then the rise of possibly fatal side effects, why would we allow a tyrannical mandate to take place and affect our children?

Hypocritical mandates that are supposedly there to protect, ironically pose a greater threat to the future health of our Nation, and I believe we all should question how beneficial questionable health mandates are.