What is the new California vaccination announcement?
On Oct. 1, 2021, Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed a mandate that would require students (K-12) sometime in the future to receive COVID-19 vaccinations if they wish to attend school in person.

Are there exemptions?
There may be exemptions based on medical, personal, or religious beliefs.

What is the current vaccination requirement in California?
There are currently 10 vaccinations required for students to attend public schools including Polio, Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis (DTaP), Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR), Hepatitis B, Varicella (Chickenpox), Tetanus, diphtheria & pertussis booster (Tdap), Varicella (Chickenpox).

When will this happen?
There is no immediate impact to students. The mandate will take effect the semester following full FDA approval of the vaccine, which is expected on July 1, 2022, but could be as early as January 1, 2022.

Who else does this mandate apply to?
Teachers and school staff will also be expected to receive the vaccine no later than when the mandate takes effect.

School Districts in Merced County have and will continue to work to ensure that students are safe and learning. To do that, we need to keep our students in school where they belong. A mandate that forces parents to make a difficult choice and causes students to move back to independent study is not a learning recovery plan.

To voice your concerns, call your Sacramento legislators and the Governor's office.

For more info, visit mcoe.org/covid19