

COVID-19 UPDATE

**COVID-19 ETS & ISOLATION/
QUARANTINE PROTOCOL UPDATES**



MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT CEO/HR DIRECTOR

On April 21, 2022, the Cal/OSHA Standards Board voted to approve the third readoption of the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS). The third readoption makes some changes to the ETS previously in effect. This amended ETS will take effect on May 6, 2022 and per the Governor's prior Executive Order, this version of the ETS will remain in effect until December 31, 2022. Cal/OSHA intends to post a new FAQ section to support this revised ETS within the coming days. Departments who are under the Aerosol Transmissible Diseases (ATD) regulations continue to be covered under the ATD and should continue to adhere to those regulations as required.

We've separated this document into two sections, most significant updates/changes to the ETS Guidance and Updates to the County's COVID Protocols/Guidelines.

Some of the more significant updates/changes includes the following:

Employer Monitoring of COVID-19 Test

- The second adoption of the ETS did not allow for self-administered testing unless observed by the employer or an authorized telehealth proctor for the employee to return to work. However, under the third re-adoption, a COVID-19 test could be self-administered and self-read if there is an independent alternative way to verify the results (e.g., a time stamped photograph of the results). In addition, employers are no longer required to make COVID-19 testing available to returned cases.

Removal of Fully Vaccinated

- The fully vaccinated exception has been removed from the ETS. The regulations will apply to all employees regardless of vaccination status.

Face Coverings

- The requirement that face coverings pass the "light test" (e.g., the covering does not let light pass through) has been removed. The ETS is in line with the updated CDPH guidance on the use of face coverings which eliminates the requirement that employees who are not fully vaccinated wear face coverings indoors and in vehicles. However, face coverings may still be required where CDPH or a local ordinance is requiring them.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- The ETS has removed the requirement for employers to clean and disinfect frequently touched areas.

Definition Changes/Additions

- The ETS amends the definition of “high exposure period” to “infectious period.” In where the infectious period is defined to start two (2) days before symptoms develop or a positive test. The period would last until 10-days after. Furthermore, the ETS adds the definition of a “returned case,” which means an individual who returns to work after testing positive for COVID-19 and did not develop any COVID-19 symptoms after a return.

You may review the full updates using the following link: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/oshsb/documents/Apr212022-COVID-19-Prevention-Emergency-txtcourtesy-3rd-Readoption.pdf>

In addition, the Riverside County Department of Public Health has updated the Protocols for Isolation and Quarantine for County Workers and Health Care Workers in Outpatient and Health Care Settings to align with the California Department of Public Health’s (CDPH) current protocols. To review the full protocols please use the following link: <https://www.rivcoph.org/coronavirus>

Some key updates to the Protocols/Guidelines for County Workers include the following:

- Persons who display symptoms¹ of COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status or previous infection, should **self-isolate** and test as soon as possible.
 - For symptomatic persons who have tested positive within the previous 90 days, antigen testing is preferred.
 - Remain in isolation while waiting for testing results. If unable to test or choosing not to test, and symptoms are not present or resolving, isolation can end after day 10.
 - If test result is negative but worker is still symptomatic, consider continuing self-isolation and retesting in 1-2 days if initially testing negative with an antigen test.
- Persons in **Non-High Risk**² settings who are exposed to someone with COVID-19, regardless of vaccination status - **No quarantine**.
- Test within 3-5 days after last exposure, regardless of symptoms.
 - Wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days, especially in indoor settings.
 - If symptoms develop, test and stay home.
- Persons in **High Risk** settings who are exposed to someone with COVID-19 and who are unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated - **Quarantine**.
 - Exclude from work, stay home and quarantine for at least 5 days after last contact with person who has COVID-19.
 - Quarantine can end after day 5 is symptoms are not present and a diagnostic specimen collected on day 5 or later tests negative.
 - If unable to test or choosing not to test, and symptoms are not present or resolving, isolation can end after day 10.

¹ Symptoms of COVID-19 include: fever of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, or diarrhea.

² High Risk Settings include emergency shelters, cooling & heating centers, [healthcare centers](#) (not covered by [AFL 21.08.8](#)), local correctional facilities and detention centers, homeless shelters, and Long-Term Care Settings & Adult and Senior Care Facilities.

- Wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days, especially in indoor settings.
- Persons in **High Risk** settings who are exposed to someone with COVID-19 and who are boosted or vaccinated but not yet eligible for their first booster- **No quarantine**
 - Test immediately upon notification of exposure, and at 3-5 days after last exposure.
 - Wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days, especially in indoor settings.
 - If symptoms develop, test and stay home.

If you have additional questions, please reach out to your supervisor or manager for assistance.

Thank you for your service and your assistance in keeping both yourself and others safe.


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Additional Resources:

RUHS-Public Health

<https://www.rivcoph.org/coronavirus>

CA Department of Industrial Relations

<https://www.dir.ca.gov/oshsb/COVID-19-Prevention-Emergency.html>