



sedgwick.

SAFETY COMMUNICATION

— CDPH Indoor Mask Mandate



The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is requiring masks be worn in all indoor public settings in California, irrespective of vaccine status, for the next four weeks (December 15, 2021, through January 15, 2022.) This new measure brings an added layer of mitigation as the Omicron variant, a Variant of Concern as labeled by the World Health Organization, is detected across California, the United States, and the world. See CDPH updated mask order below:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx>

According to the CDPH, since Thanksgiving, the statewide seven-day average case rate has increased by 47% and hospitalizations have increased by 14%. In workplaces, employers are still required to comply with the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) or in some workplaces the Cal/OSHA Aerosol Transmissible Diseases (ATD) Standard and should consult those regulations for additional applicable requirements. Other items of note:

- Los Angeles County, Ventura County, and most of the San Francisco Bay Area have their own indoor mask mandates that were implemented earlier this year and have no end dates.
- High Risk Congregate and other Healthcare Settings: Surgical masks and higher-level respirators may be required for high-risk congregate and other healthcare settings where there are unvaccinated workers. ([See State Health Officer Order issued on July 26, 2021](#))

EXISTING COVID-19 TEMPORARY STANDARDS THAT REMAIN IN EFFECT

- Employers must establish, implement, and maintain an effective written COVID-19 Prevention Program that includes:
 - Identifying and evaluating employee exposures to COVID-19 health hazards.
 - Implementing effective policies and procedures to correct unsafe and unhealthy conditions.
 - Allowing adequate time for handwashing and cleaning frequently touched surfaces and objects.
- Employers must provide effective training and instruction to employees on how COVID-19 is spread, infection prevention techniques, and information regarding COVID-19 related benefits.
- Employers must exclude employees who have COVID-19 symptoms and/or are not fully vaccinated and have had a close contact from the workplace and, if that close contact is work-related, ensure continued wages.

Note: If you revised your COVID-19 Prevention Program using the [Sedgwick Model CPP template dated 10/15/21](#), you do not need to update your written program. It is recommended that employees be trained on this new CDPH mask mandate.

COVID-19 OUTBREAKS

During any outbreak, face coverings are required regardless of employee vaccination status: 1) indoors and 2) outdoors when employees are less than six feet from another person. During major outbreaks, six-foot physical distancing is required where feasible, both indoors and outdoors.

CAL/OSHA RESOURCES

Cal/OSHA resources are available at https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/dosh_publications/06-16-21-ETS-Revisions.pdf