



COVID-19 Guidance for Places of Worship and Providers of Religious Services and Cultural Ceremonies, Beyond the Blueprint

Effective Friday, July 30, 2021, at 12:01 a.m., face coverings shall be worn in all indoor public settings, regardless of vaccination status, per County Health Order until rescinded or amended by the Health Officer.

Effective Tuesday, June 15, 2021, all industry sectors that were subject to capacity restrictions and other requirements under the color coded risk tiers may return to usual operations (with the limited exceptions for [Mega Events](#)).

COVID-19 in the Community

COVID-19 is still causing illness and hospitalizations in Sacramento County. Variants of COVID-19 continue to pose a significant risk.

Vaccinations, sanitation measures and face coverings have helped reduced the spread of COVID-19, but businesses and customers need to remain vigilant.

This guidance applies to places of worship and providers of religious services and cultural ceremonies.

Restrictions that ended on June 15 (except for Mega Events) include:

- Physical distancing
- Capacity limits on businesses
- County tier system

Face Coverings

Face covering requirements have had multiple updates and directives from different agencies. These requirements may continue to be updated. The basic requirements are listed below. For detailed requirements, exceptions and updates, please refer to the websites in the resources section.

Effective Friday, July 30, 2021, at 12:01 a.m., face coverings shall be worn, regardless of vaccination status, over the mouth and nose, in all indoor public settings, venues, gatherings, and workplaces, such as, but not limited to: offices, retail stores, restaurants and bars, theaters, family entertainment centers, conference centers, and State and local government offices serving the public.

Workers and Employers: Face coverings are required to be worn by workers that are not vaccinated when working indoors. [Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Guidance and Resources](#)

See also [Sacramento County COVID-19 Workplace Checklist for Cal/OSHA Requirements](#)

- **Employer**
 - **MAY** provide information to all patrons, congregants, guests and attendees regarding vaccination requirements and allow vaccinated individuals to self-attest that they are in compliance prior to entry.
 - **May** implement vaccine verification to determine whether individuals are required to wear a mask.
 - **May** require all patrons, congregants, guests and attendees to wear masks.
- No person can be prevented from wearing a mask as a condition of participation in an activity or entry into a business.

General Public: All individuals who are not vaccinated, are required to wear a face covering while visiting indoor facilities or outdoor facilities where 6ft of social distancing cannot be maintained. [CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#)

Everyone: All people are required to wear a face covering in the following places: public transit, K-12 schools, healthcare settings, care facilities, detention/correctional facilities, homeless shelters, emergency shelters, and cooling centers.

Prevention Measures

To continue reducing the spread of COVID-19 within the community, the following prevention measures are still encouraged:

- Provide outdoor options
- Encourage social distancing where lines and gatherings might occur
- Consider keeping tables spaced at least 6 feet apart
- Provide hand sanitizer for public and worker use

The following prevention measures are recommended everywhere and are required in food facilities (will be checked during inspections).

- Use an approved sanitizer to wipe down surfaces throughout your facility on a routine basis.
- Be sure that all handwashing sinks are always stocked with liquid soap and paper towels.

Mega Events

Mega Events are defined as events drawing crowds greater than 5,000 (indoors) and 10,000 (outdoors) attendees. CDPH has issued guidelines for Mega Events. For further information, please see the [CDPH Beyond the Blueprint Guidance](#).

Day Camps

Day camps and other supervised youth activities must follow these specific portions of the current K-12 schools guidance:

- [Layers of safety](#)
- [Confirmed or suspected COVID-19 case response](#)
- [Closures](#)

Overnight Camps (effective through September 2021)

If all camp staff and attendees are fully vaccinated as defined in [CDPH's Guidance for Fully](#)

[Vaccinated Persons](#), camps may operate without any additional public health recommendations beyond existing [Cal OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards \(ETS\)](#).

If any camp staff and attendees are not fully vaccinated, camps must:

- Ensure use of face coverings as described in current [CDPH Face Coverings guidance](#), including exemptions.
 - Masking is required indoors regardless of physical distancing and outdoors when six-foot physical distancing may not be maintained at all times.
 - Fully vaccinated campers and staff may follow the [CDPH's Guidance for Fully Vaccinated Persons](#) guidance regarding the appropriate use of face coverings.
 - Follow current [CDC recommendations for overnight camps](#)

Schools

Refer to [CDPH's K-12 Schools Reopening Framework and Guidance Q&A](#).

Checklist for the Workplace, Workers and Visitors

The Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board adopted revised [COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards](#) (ETS) on June 17, 2021 which will take effect immediately. The following checklist is a summary of requirements for the workplace. For more information, visit Cal/OSHA's website at <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/coronavirus/>

Workplace Employer Checklist

- Fully vaccinated workers without symptoms do not need to be tested or quarantined after close contacts with COVID-19 cases unless they have symptoms.
- No face covering requirements outdoors (except during outbreaks), regardless of vaccination status, though workers should be trained on CDPH recommendations for outdoor use of face coverings. See [CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#).
- Face coverings required indoors, regardless of vaccination status.
- May allow fully vaccinated workers not to wear face coverings indoors, but must document their vaccination status. There are some settings where CDPH requires face coverings regardless of vaccination status.
 - In outbreaks, all workers must wear face coverings indoors and outdoors when six-foot physical distancing cannot be maintained, regardless of vaccination status.
- Must provide unvaccinated workers with approved respirators for **voluntary use** when working indoors or in a vehicle with others, upon request. Refer to [Cal/OSHA Title 8, Section 5144\(c\)\(2\)](#) for information about respirator voluntary use.
- May not retaliate against workers from wearing face coverings.
- No physical distancing or barrier requirements regardless of worker vaccination status with the following exceptions:
 - Employers must evaluate whether it is necessary to implement physical distancing and barriers during an outbreak (3 or more cases in an exposed group of workers)
 - Employers must implement physical distancing and barriers during a major outbreak (20 or more cases in an exposed group of workers)
- No physical distancing requirements whatsoever in the employer-provided housing and transportation regulations.

Employers must

- Require all patrons to wear face coverings for all indoor settings, regardless of their vaccination status; and
 - Post clearly visible and easy-to-read signage at all entry points for indoor settings to communicate the masking requirements to all patrons.
 - In addition, those responsible for indoor public settings are strongly encouraged to provide face coverings at no cost to individuals required to wear them.
- Evaluate ventilation systems to maximize outdoor air and increase filtrations efficiency, and evaluate the use of additional air cleaning systems
- Implement an effective written COVID-19 Prevention Program.
- Provide effective training and instruction to workers on the employer's prevention plan and their rights under the ETS.
- Provide notification to public health departments of outbreaks.
- Provide notification to workers of exposure and close contacts.

Workers should

- Be aware of the requirements to [offer testing](#) after potential exposures.
- Be aware of requirements for responding to COVID-19 cases and outbreaks.
- Be aware of quarantine and exclusion pay requirements.
- Be aware of basic prevention requirements for employer-provided housing and transportation, where applicable.

This guidance document is an overview. For the full requirements, see title 8 sections [3205](#), [3205.1](#), [3205.2](#), [3205.3](#), [3205.4](#)

Control Measures and Screening

- Recommend frequent handwashing and use of hand sanitizer. Assign staff to regularly check soap and paper towel dispensers are stocked and functional. Keep extra batteries available for motion sensing dispensers.
- Consider disposable glove use may be helpful to supplement frequent handwashing or use of hand sanitizer.
- Post signs in strategic and highly visible locations to remind patrons, congregants and visitors that they will need to use face coverings if not vaccinated.
- Consider the use of social media, website, texts, email, newsletters, etc., to communicate face covering requirements to protect congregants/visitors and workers so that they are familiar with the policies to slow the spread of COVID-19 before arriving at the facility.
- Remind congregants and visitors in advance to bring a face covering if needed and consider making them available for those who arrive without one, if possible.

Cleaning and Disinfecting

- Perform cleaning of high traffic areas such as lobbies, halls, and areas of ingress and egress including stairways, stairwells, handrails, and elevator controls.
- Frequently disinfect commonly used surfaces including doorknobs, toilets, handwashing facilities, pulpits and podiums, donation boxes or plates, altars, and pews and seating areas.
- Establish frequent cleaning and disinfection of personal work areas such as desks and cubicles and supply the necessary cleaning products.

- Consider discouraging the sharing of items used in worship and services (such as prayer books, cushions, prayer rugs, etc.) whenever possible. Provide single use, digital copies or ask congregants/visitors to bring personal items instead.
- Avoid sharing work equipment and supplies, such as phones, office equipment, computers, etc., wherever possible. Never share PPE.
- Where such items must be shared, disinfect between shifts or uses, whichever is more frequent, including the following: shared office equipment (copiers, fax machines, printers, telephones, keyboards, staplers, etc.) and shared worship items, etc., with a cleaner appropriate for the surface.
- Ensure that sanitary facilities remain operational and stocked at all times. Provide additional soap, paper towels, and hand sanitizer when needed.
- Consider providing hand sanitizer dispensers, touchless if possible, at entrances and contact areas such as meeting rooms, lobbies, and elevator landings.

Please note: For high touch surfaces where chlorine bleach may be used, the CDC recommends mixing 1/3 cup of chlorine bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented bleach or “no-splash” bleach.

Resources:

- [Sacramento County Public Health Order](#)
- [Sacramento County COVID-19 Information](#)
- [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\) Beyond the Blueprint for Industry and Business Sectors](#)
- [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\) Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#)
- [Cal/OSHA: Requirements to Protect Workers from Coronavirus](#)
- For business assistance information, contact the [Sacramento Business Environmental Resource Center \(BERC\)](#).
- [Sacramento County Environmental Management Department](#)

Questions

Sacramento County COVID-19 Hotline: (916) 875-2400

Cal/OSHA Consultation: (833) 579-0927

Document was prepared by Sacramento County’s [Environmental Management Department](#)

Summary of Revisions

6/29/2020: Initial version

7/7/2021: Added congregant to description, changed employee to worker and corrected typo.

7/15/2021: Added recommendation from County Public Health Order for vaccination individuals to wear masks in indoor settings where vaccination verification is not required and the vaccination status of others is unknown.

7/29/2021: Sacramento County Public Health Order, effective 7/30/2021. Masks required indoors for vaccinated and unvaccinated.