

COVID-19 Mega Event Guidance – 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be worn in all indoor public settings, regardless of vaccination status, per the [County Health Order](#), until it is rescinded or amended by the Health Officer.

COVID-19 in the Community

On June 15, 2021, California reopened the economy and moved beyond the Blueprint for a Safer Economy. All sector listed on the [Blueprint Activities and Business Tier Chart](#) return to usual operations.

However, 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 reduce the spread of COVID-19, but businesses and customers need to remain vigilant.

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has updated public health requirements and recommendations for Mega Events that are **effective September 20, 2021** and will remain in place until **November 1, 2021**.

Mega Events

Large events involve several factors that increase the risk of COVID-19 transmission because

- ✓ Participants and attendees are spending extensive periods of time physically close to large numbers of people they don't usually interact with,
- ✓ The frequency and total duration of close contact between attendees is increased,
- ✓ The event draws from beyond the nearby community and will often draw attendees and participants from other states and countries who may be infected with more infectious COVID-19 variants, and
- ✓ Effective contact tracing may be difficult given the number of potentially uncontrolled mixing between groups and attendees among individuals who are unlikely to be together again and the nature of the events.

Mega Events are defined as events drawing greater than **1,000 (indoors)** and **10,000 (outdoors)** attendees.

Mega Events may have either assigned or unassigned seating, and may be either general admission or gated, ticketed, and permitted events. Mega Events do not include venues such as

shopping malls or museums that are open to public circulation as part of their regular operations, except to the extent that such venues host a qualifying event.

Requirements

All Mega Event venues must:

- Require all patrons to wear face coverings, over the mouth and nose, regardless of 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, and

Indoor Mega Event (greater than 1,000 attendees): Example: conventions, conference, expos, sporting events and concerts

- Verification of fully vaccinated status or pre-entry negative test result is required of all attendees. Testing must be conducted within 72 hours before event start time (both PCR and antigen are acceptable). Results of the test must be available prior to entry into the event or venue.
- Indoor venue and event operators may not use self-attestation as a mode of verification or negative test for events scheduled after September 20, 2021.
- Information is prominently placed on all communications, including the reservation and ticketing systems, to ensure guests are aware of testing and vaccination requirements (including acceptable modes of verification).
- Attendees must follow [CDPH Guidance for Face Coverings](#).
- Venues should make masks available to attendees upon request.

Outdoor Mega Event (greater than 10,000 attendees): Example: music or food festivals, car shows, large endurance events, marathons, parades, sporting events and concerts.

- Attendees of outdoor mega events are required to wear face coverings in areas where 50% of the structure has adjacent impermeable walls, such as concourses and concession stands ([Sacramento County Public Health Order, dated 7/29/2021](#)).
- Verification of fully vaccinated status or pre-entry negative test result is strongly recommended for all attendees. Testing must be conducted within 72 hours before event start time (both PCR and antigen are acceptable). Results of the test must be available prior to entry into the event or venue.
- If implemented, venue and event operators are recommended to not use self-attestation as a mode of verification but rather use verification options for providing proof of vaccination in the [CDPH Vaccine Guidelines and Standards](#).
- Attendees must follow [CDPH Guidance for Face Coverings](#).
- Information will be prominently placed on all communications, including the reservation and ticketing systems, to ensure guests are aware that the State strongly recommends that they be fully vaccinated or obtain a negative COVID-19 test prior to attending the event.
- Venues should make masks available to attendees upon request.

Additional Recommendations for Sponsors of Mega Events:

- Encourage everyone to get vaccinated when eligible.
- Facilitate increased ventilation of indoor spaces (i.e., open all windows and doors to increase natural air flow), following current [CDPH and CalOSHA guidance](#).
- Encourage everyone to sign up for [CA Notify](#) as an added layer of protection for themselves and the community to receive alerts when they have been in close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19.
- Convey the risk of attending large, crowded events where the vaccine status of others in attendance may be unknown to the individuals.
- Convey the risk of attending large, crowded events for populations that may not currently be eligible for vaccination or may be immunocompromised and whose vaccine protection may be incomplete.
- Encourage all venues along any parade or event route to provide outdoor spaces for eating/drinking/congregating to reduce the risk of transmission in indoor settings.

Prevention Measures

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

- Provide outdoor options
- Review CDPH's [ventilation tips for reducing COVID-19 risk indoors](#)
- Encourage social distancing where lines and gatherings might occur
- If using tables, consider keeping tables spaced at least 6 feet apart
- Provide hand sanitizer for public and worker use
- 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
- Watch for [symptoms](#) of COVID-19, especially following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19
- If symptoms develop, all people, regardless of vaccination status, should isolate and be clinically evaluated for COVID-19, including SARS-CoV-2 testing. Anyone testing positive for SARS-CoV2, regardless of vaccination status, must follow the [General Isolation Order](#) of the Sacramento County Health Officer

[Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#)

The [Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#) issued by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), continues to apply throughout the County, but may be amended periodically. For detailed requirements, exceptions and updates, please refer to the [CDPH guidance](#).

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[Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards \(ETS\)](#)

The Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board adopted revised [ETS](#) on June 17, 2021, and immediately effective. Employers and businesses subject to the ETS and/or the Cal/OSHA Aerosol Transmissible Diseases Standards can find additional information on the [Cal/OSHA's website](#).

The ETS allow local health jurisdictions to mandate more protective measures. [Sacramento County's Public Health Order](#), which requires face coverings for all individuals in indoor settings and businesses, regardless of vaccination status, takes precedence over the more permissive ETS regarding employee face coverings.

[Checklist for the Workplace and Workers](#)

The following checklist is a summary of requirements for the workplace. For more information, visit [Cal/OSHA's website](#).

Workplace Employer Checklist

- Unless in a healthcare or congregate setting, fully vaccinated workers without COVID-19 [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.
 - 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

- 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 and visitors that they will need to use face coverings.
- Consider the use of social media, website, texts, email, newsletters, etc., to communicate face covering requirements to protect visitors and workers so that they are familiar with the policies to slow the spread of COVID-19 before arriving at the facility.
- Remind visitors in advance to bring a face covering if needed and if possible consider making them available for those who arrive without one.

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, 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 performance items, whenever possible.
- Avoid sharing work equipment and supplies, such as phones, office equipment, computers, etc., wherever possible. Never share personal protective equipment (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.) 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](#)
- CDC Guidance for [Vaccinated](#) and [Unvaccinated](#) People

Questions

Questions about Mega Event planning, call Sacramento County Environmental Management Department at (916) 875-1944.

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

8/24/2021: Initial version

9/7/2021: Added link for CDPH tips for reducing COVID risk indoors. Added phone number for Sacramento County Environmental Management Department. Added testing must be conducted within 72 hours of the start time of the vent and results must be available for entry.

9/29/2021: Added requirement to wear face covering while at an outdoor mega event if 50% of the structure has impermeable walls.