

COVID-19 Mega Event Guidance – Beyond the Blueprint

Background

COVID-19, also known as the novel coronavirus, is a respiratory illness that is spread through the air via respiratory droplets from an infected person or by touching contaminated surfaces.

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

Mega Event

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.

CDPH has issued guidelines for Mega Events. For further information, please refer to [CDPH Beyond the Blueprint Guidance](#).

Requirements

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

- ❑ Vaccination verification or negative test result is strongly recommended for **Indoor Mega Events**.
- ❑ If implemented, venue and event operators are strongly 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 Record Guidelines & Standards](#).
- ❑ All businesses and venue operators should check the identification of all attendees age 18 and over to validate their vaccination record or proof of negative test. Acceptable identification is any document that includes the name of the person and photograph.
- ❑ Attendees are strongly recommended to wear masks and should follow [CDPH Guidance for Face Coverings](#). Refer to [CDPH Get the Most Out of Masking](#) for more information on getting the best fit and filtration for masks.
- ❑ Information should 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 consider making masks (preferably respirators) available to attendees upon request.
- ❑ No physical distancing restrictions for attendees, customers and guests

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

- ❑ Follow the mitigation measures for indoor mega events as well as the additional recommendations below.

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 Cal/OSHA 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.

For further information, please refer to [CDPH Beyond the Blueprint Guidance](#).

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. Refer to California Department of Public Health (CDPH) [Guidance for Isolation and Quarantine for the General Public](#) for additional information about isolation for persons testing positive for COVID-19 and quarantine for persons who have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 (unvaccinated and vaccinated).

Face Coverings (effective February 16, 2022)

Persons should use information about the current [COVID-19 Community Levels \(CCLs\)](#) in their county to decide which prevention behaviors to use and when (at all times or at specific times), based on their own risk for severe illness and that of members of their household, their risk tolerance, and setting-specific factors.

Check your Community Level: https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/science/community-levels.html#anchor_47145 and refer to chart for face covering recommendations.

In workplaces, employers and employees are subject to either the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 [Emergency Temporary Standards \(ETS\)](#) or the [Cal/OSHA Aerosol Transmissible Diseases \(ATD\)](#) Standard and should consult those regulations for additional applicable requirements.

Businesses and venue operators, including K-12 school and childcare settings, must allow any individual to wear a mask if they desire to.

For additional information on the most effective types of masks and ensuring a well-fitted mask for adults, individuals should refer to CDPH [Get the Most out of Masking](#) and see [CDPH Masking Guidance Frequently Asked Questions](#). For additional information on the most effective types of masks and ensuring a well-fitted mask for children, individuals should refer to [CDPH Masks for Kids: Tips and Resources](#).

No person can be prevented from wearing a mask as a condition of participation in an activity or entry into a business.

Refer to [CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Masks](#) for more information.

Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS)

The COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards are still in effect. The workplace standards were updated in May 2022. In addition to these requirements, employers must follow public health orders on COVID-19. More information on the COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards is available in [Cal/OSHA's Fact Sheet](#).

In December of 2020, the Governor issued [Executive Order N-84-20](#), which states that the recommended **isolation and quarantine** periods in the ETS (also called “exclusion periods” in the ETS) will be **overridden** by any applicable isolation or quarantine recommendation by the CDPH.

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 at <https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/coronavirus/>

Workplace Employer Checklist

- Implement an effective written COVID-19 Prevention Program.
- Provide effective training and instruction to employees on the employer’s prevention plan and their rights under the ETS.
- Provide notification to employees of exposure and close contacts.
- Employers must offer testing at no cost to employees during paid time to:
 - Symptomatic unvaccinated employees, regardless of whether there is a known exposure.
 - All employees regardless of vaccination status, who have had close contact with a COVID-19 case, except for recently recovered employees.
 - All employees except for recently recovered employees, regardless of vaccination status, in an outbreak or a major outbreak.
- Return to Work: Isolation and Quarantine
 - [CDPH's Isolation and Quarantine Guidance](#)
 - [Cal OSHA: What Employers and Workers Need to Know About COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine](#)
 - Employer or telehealth professional must observe the use of a COVID-19 test at home with self-read results. Refer to title 8 section [3205](#) (b)(6)(C).
 - Quarantine and exclusion pay requirements.
- Requirements for responding to COVID-19 cases and outbreaks.
 - Provide notification to public health departments of outbreaks.
 - During an outbreak (three or more employees in an exposed group), employers are required to evaluate whether physical distancing or barriers are necessary to control the transmission of COVID-19.
 - Physical distancing must be used in a major outbreak (20 or more employees in an exposed group) for all employees, regardless of vaccination status except when an employer demonstrates that maintaining six feet of distance is not feasible. When it is not feasible to maintain six feet of distance, persons must be as far apart as feasible.
 - As described above, physical distancing is sometimes required, for a limited period, if fully vaccinated employees cannot be tested after a close contact.
- Employers are under an ongoing requirement to assess workplace hazards and implement controls to prevent transmission of disease.
- Nothing in the revised ETS prevents employers from implementing additional protective measures than are required, including the use of physical distancing and barriers.

- Evaluate ventilation systems to maximize outdoor air and increase filtrations efficiency, and evaluate the use of additional air cleaning systems
- **Effective February 16, 2022**, employers may allow fully vaccinated employees to work indoors or in vehicles without a face covering, but vaccination status must be documented.
 - Documentation must be confidential
 - Refer to [ETS](#) for accepted forms of documentation.
- Unvaccinated employees shall wear a face covering when indoors and in vehicles. Exceptions are:
 - When an employee is alone in a room or vehicle
 - While eating or drinking at the workplace, provided employees are at least six feet apart and outside air supply to the area, if indoors, has been maximized to the extent feasible
 - Employees wearing respirators required by the employer and used in compliance with section 5144
 - Employees who cannot wear face covering due to a medical or mental health condition or disability, or who are hearing-impaired or communicating with a hearing-impaired person
 - Specific tasks that cannot be feasibly performed with a face covering
- Face covering means a surgical mask, a medical procedure mask, a respirator worn voluntarily, or a tightly woven fabric or non-woven material of at least two layers (i.e., fabrics that do not let light pass through when held up to a light source) that completely covers the nose and mouth and is secured to the head with ties, ear loops, or elastic bands that go behind the head. If gaiters are worn, they shall have two layers of fabric or be folded to make two layers. A face covering is a solid piece of material without slits, visible holes, or punctures, and must fit snugly over the nose, mouth, and chin with no large gaps on the outside of the face. A face covering does not include a scarf, ski mask, balaclava, bandana, turtleneck, collar, or single layer of fabric.

Employees 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 which 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 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

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.

12/7/2021: Added children under 2years of age are exempt from testing. Attendees 18 and older are required to show identification when showing vaccination/proof of testing documentation.

12/16/21: Added requirement for universal masking indoors statewide December 15, 2021 through January 15, 2022. Added testing requirement to shorten time from 72 hours from when test result is received before entry to venue/event.

12/21/21: Revised ETS were adopted on December 16, 2021. The standards become effective January 14, 2022.

1/18/2022: Lowered threshold for Indoor Mega Event to 500 attendees and Outdoor Mega Events to 5,000 attendees. Removed effective date for requirement to show ID if over 18 for negative test and added 'Sacramento County' to mask mandate as of July 30, 2021. Updated end date of statewide public health order to mask indoors to February 15, 2022. Updated to Cal OSHA ETS effective 1/14/2022.

2/16/2022: CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings updated for universal masking only in specified settings and only unvaccinated persons are required to mask in in all indoor public settings. Fully vaccinated are recommended to continue indoor masking when the risk is high. Updated Mega Events to increase thresholds (1000 for indoor and 10,000 for outdoor). Removed links for Sacramento County Public Health Orders, these have been rescinded.

4/1/2022: Updated Mega Events to strong recommendation to require proof of vaccination or negative test for Indoor Mega Events (previously was required).

9/26/22: Updated to CDPH face covering guidance.

PHO: none