

COVID-19 UPDATE



STATE COVID-19 WORK RULES TO BE REVISED FURTHER

May 26, 2021- Revised rules governing COVID-19 precautions in the workplace have been sent back for changes that are due this week, after farm groups and others raised objections.

The California Division of Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board, acting on the advice of staff, agreed to table consideration of updated Emergency Temporary Standards governing how employers must mitigate COVID-19 risks and respond to positive cases in the workplace.

The board acted in light of recent guidance from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to the effect that people vaccinated against COVID-19 need not wear masks in most cases.

The Cal/OSHA board adopted the original emergency temporary standards, or ETS, in November 2020. The ETS requires employers to develop a written COVID-19 prevention program or incorporate its elements into an Injury and Illness Prevention Program. This includes identifying and correcting COVID-19 hazards; maintaining social distancing of at least 6 feet unless the nature of the work makes this impossible; requiring masks; procedures to investigate and respond to COVID-19 cases and outbreaks at the workplace; and clear communication with employees about all of those activities.

Revised standards are due May 28, to be considered at a special meeting of the Standards Board June 3. The present standards are due to expire October 2, unless the board acts otherwise.

CDPH PROVIDES CALIFORNIA REOPENING UPDATE

May 21, 2021- On May 21st, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) released details surrounding the state's plan to move beyond the Blueprint for a Safer Economy on June 15th. With the limited exceptions noted for Mega Events, all other sectors listed in the current [Blueprint Activities and Business Tiers Chart](#) may return to usual operations based on the general public health recommendations below.

Restrictions Applying to Indoor and Outdoor Settings

- Vaccine verification/negative testing: Required for indoor mega events. Recommended for outdoor mega events.
- Capacity limitations: No restrictions.
- Physical distancing: No restrictions for attendees, customers, and guests.
- Masking: Follow current [CDPH Guidance for Face Coverings](#).
- Travelers: Follow [CDC](#) recommendations and [CDPH Travel Advisory](#).

CDPH will continue to provide guidance for youth, healthcare, and high-risk congregate settings. Please note that **employers will remain subject to the [Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards \(ETS\)](#)**, with three exceptions:

- Workplaces where there is only one employee who does not have contact with other people.
- Employees who are working from home.
- Employees who are covered by the [Aerosol Transmissible Diseases](#) regulation.

BLUEPRINT FOR A SAFER ECONOMY UPDATE

May 25, 2021- Four counties have moved to a less restrictive tier. From Red (substantial) to Orange (moderate): Merced and Placer. From Orange (moderate) to Yellow (minimal): Inyo and Mariposa. No counties moved to a more restrictive tier.

The May 25th county tier status is:

- **Purple (Widespread) - 0 counties**
- **Red (Substantial) - 8 counties**
 - Del Norte, Nevada, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Shasta, Solano, Stanislaus and Yuba
- **Orange (Moderate) - 35 counties**
 - Every other county not listed in the other tiers.
- **Yellow (Substantial) 15 counties**
 - Alpine, Amador, Inyo, Lassen, Los Angeles, Mariposa, Mendocino, Mono, Orange, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sierra and Trinity

For more information on a county's status, please visit - <https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/>.