

COVID-19 UPDATE

UPDATED COVID-19 GUIDANCE FOR FACE COVERINGS

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT CEO/HR DIRECTOR

The COVID-19 vaccine is available to select groups throughout Riverside County and questions have arisen regarding the continued use of face coverings after an employee has been vaccinated for COVID-19. To ensure our employees continue to follow the state and County requirements, we are confirming the guidelines surrounding face coverings during COVID-19 and how to proceed if you have been vaccinated.

On June 10, 2020, the County Executive Officer issued a statement that required all County employees to wear facial coverings when at work to reduce the exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace. Subsequently on June 18, 2020 the State released a directive also requiring the use of face coverings for everyone when in areas where social distancing was not possible. These mandates remain in effect for all employees, even after employees are vaccinated.

Face coverings remain a requirement of our County workforce regardless of whether you received a COVID-19 vaccination. Appropriate face coverings, such as scarves (dense fabric, without holes), bandanas, neck gaiter, or other fabric face coverings to reduce the spread of COVID-19 must be worn while you are at work. The fabric face coverings should cover your nose and mouth to prevent the spray from a cough or sneeze and to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) states that even if an individual has received both doses of the COVID-19 vaccination face coverings are still required. To protect yourself and others follow these recommendations:

- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth
- Stay at least 6 feet away from others.
- Avoid crowds
- Avoid poorly ventilated spaces
- Wash your hands often.

It's important for everyone to continue using all the tools available to help stop this pandemic as we learn more about how COVID-19 vaccines work in real-world conditions. Experts are also looking at how many people get vaccinated and how the virus is spreading in communities. The CDC has also stated that they do not yet know whether getting a COVID-19 vaccine will prevent you from spreading the virus that causes COVID-19 to other people, even if you don't get sick yourself.

The County shall provide face coverings as needed and ensure they are worn by employees where required by County CEO orders and from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Please note that face shields are not a replacement for face coverings, although they may be worn together for additional protection as desired.

The following are exceptions to the face coverings requirement:

1. When an employee is alone in a room.
2. While eating and 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 possible.
3. Employees wearing respiratory protection in accordance with section 5144 or other title safety orders.
4. Employees who cannot wear face coverings due to a medical or mental health condition or disability, or who are hearing-impaired or communicating with a hearing-impaired person.
5. Specific tasks which cannot feasibly be performed with a face covering. This exception is limited to the time period in which such tasks are actually being performed, and the unmasked employee shall be at least six feet away from all other persons unless unmasked employees are tested at least twice weekly for COVID-19.

Please note exemptions can be made for persons with a confirmed medical condition. Consult your supervisor/manager to determine next steps. According to [Cal OSHA regulation §3205 COVID-19 Prevention \(7\)\(B\)](#) Face coverings are still required and “Face Covering” is defined as “a tightly woven fabric or non-woven material with no visible holes or openings, which covers the nose and mouth.”

COVID-19 is still present in our communities; therefore, the County in accordance with guidance from Cal OSHA and the CDC continues to require that employees wear a face covering to work. Please use your best judgement as to the face covering that you wear and if you have any questions direct them to your supervisor.

We are encouraging each of you to continue to protect yourselves by practicing social distancing, washing, or sanitizing your hands regularly and taking good care of yourselves during this challenging time.

Thank you for your service and your assistance in keeping both yourself and others safe.


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