

COVID-19 UPDATE

COVID-19 FACE COVERINGS, MEGA EVENTS, AND TRAVEL

MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT CEO/HR DIRECTOR

COVID-19 is still present in our communities. As such, the County is providing updates on the following: face coverings, mega event testing requirements, and traveling.

Face Coverings

With the emergence of the COVID-19 Omicron variant, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has issued updated [guidance on face coverings](#)¹. On December 13, 2021, the CDPH announced that it is now requiring masks to be worn in all indoor public settings regardless of vaccination status beginning December 15, 2021 through January 15, 2022. Exceptions to this order are provided by the CDPH and can be accessed using the link above. The State will continue to monitor the situation and will make further recommendations as needed in response to the pandemic after January 15, 2022.

As a result, County Employees will be required to wear face coverings while indoors. Exceptions include:

- When alone in a closed office or room.
- When eating or drinking.
- When an accommodation is required.
- When job duties make a face covering infeasible or create a hazard.

Mega Events

Additional updates were also made to requirements for attending mega events like concerts and sporting events characterized by large crowds greater than 1,000 indoor or 10,000 outdoor attendees. Prior to attending an event, attendees will now require either proof of vaccination, a negative antigen COVID-19 test within one day of the event, or a negative Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test within two days of the event. This requirement will also become effective on December 15, 2021 and more details can be found using the following [link](#).

Travel

New international travel restrictions were announced on December 2, 2021 by the Federal Government. These new travel restrictions became effective on December 6, 2021 and applies to all travelers two (2) years old and older. They require international travelers returning to the United States to test for COVID-19 within one (1) day of their departure from a foreign country. Additionally, through March 18, 2022, all travelers

¹ "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. A face covering has no visible holes or openings and must cover the nose and mouth. A face covering does not include, a scarf, ski mask, balaclava, bandana, turtleneck, collar, or single layer fabric.

must wear face coverings during travel and on transportation hubs. Notably, the new restrictions do not require testing or quarantine after returning from international travel. There are no changes to domestic travel at this time and general precautions stay in place (e.g., wearing face covering in airports).

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) still recommends that unvaccinated individuals self-quarantine for seven (7) days after returning from international travel. It also recommends that all international travelers test for COVID-19 within three (3) to five (5) days of returning regardless of vaccination status. The CDC further recommends that unvaccinated individuals test for COVID-19 one (1) to three (3) days before departure. The CDPH recommends that travelers follow these CDC guidelines. While CDC and CDPH recommendations are not mandatory, they are designed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and its new variant and should be followed whenever possible.

With the holidays quickly approaching, please keep these new guidelines and recommendations in mind. Employees who plan on traveling internationally are advised to schedule a COVID-19 test within one (1) day of your return trip's departure. Failure to do so could cause delays in your return to the Country and/or work.

The County maintains its goal of getting as many people vaccinated as possible. As such, the County continues to allow employees who are already at work (as opposed to employees on vacation or sick or off work etc.) to obtain COVID-19 vaccinations while on County time. This also extends to employees who wish to get their booster shots. This allowance applies to employees physically at work and those telecommuting; however, supervisor/manager approval is required. This benefit does not include coverage for mileage, nor does it allow the use of a County vehicle to get the COVID-19 vaccination. For additional information regarding this matter please consult with your supervisor/manager to ensure scheduling does not impact business operations.

We encourage each of you to continue to protect yourselves by practicing social distancing, washing and/or sanitizing your hands regularly, and following established safety guidelines. Thank you for your service and your assistance in keeping both yourself and others safe.


BRENDA DIEDERICHS

Additional Resources:

RUHS-Public Health

<https://www.rivcoph.org/coronavirus>

Protocol for County Workers

<https://www.rivcoph.org/Portals/0/Documents/CoronaVirus/December2021/HealthProvider/Protocol%20for%20County%20Workers%2011-2021b.pdf?ver=2021-12-06-082602-890×tamp=1638807988515>

Protocol for First Responders

<https://www.rivcoph.org/Portals/0/Documents/CoronaVirus/September2021/HealthProvider/Protocol%20for%20First%20Responders%20%209.9.21.pdf?ver=2021-09-10-154837-630×tamp=1631314139894>

Protocol for Health Care Workers (HCW) in Acute Care Hospitals

<https://www.rivcoph.org/Portals/0/Documents/CoronaVirus/July2021/HealthProvider/Protocol%20for%20Health%20Care%20Workers%20in%20Acute%20Care%20Hospitals%2007-14-2021.pdf?ver=2021-07-21-123053-653×tamp=1626895871429>

State of California COVID-19 Travel Information

<https://covid19.ca.gov/travel/>