

# COVID-19 UPDATE

## COVID-19 FACE COVERING UPDATES



### MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT CEO/HR DIRECTOR

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) requirement for universal masking indoors regardless of vaccination status expires February 15, 2022. On February 16, 2022, the CDPH will revert back to the pre-December 15, 2021 requirements for the use of face coverings<sup>1</sup>. That is, universal masking shall remain required regardless of vaccination status only in certain indoor settings such as healthcare, correctional facilities and detention centers, and other settings as outlined by the [CDPH Guidance](#).

As a result, Employers may allow fully vaccinated<sup>2</sup> employees not to wear face coverings indoors. County employees can be asked to disclose their vaccination status and can decline to indicate their status, however, will be treated as unvaccinated<sup>3</sup> and subject to all the rules for unvaccinated individuals.

Face coverings are required indoors (including elevators) and in vehicles for unvaccinated employees. Exceptions include:

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

No face covering requirements outdoors (except during outbreaks), regardless of vaccination status. Face coverings are recommended for unvaccinated persons outdoors where six feet of physical distancing cannot be maintained. Fully vaccinated individuals are recommended to continue indoor masking where the risk may be high. Employers may not retaliate against vaccinated employees for voluntarily wearing face coverings.

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

<sup>1</sup>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.

<sup>2</sup>“Fully vaccinated” means the employer has documented that the person received, at least 14 days after, either the second dose in a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or a single-dose COVID-19 vaccine.

<sup>3</sup>“Unvaccinated” means persons who have not received any doses of COVID-19 vaccine or whose status is unknown.

## **Additional Resources:**

RUHS-Public Health:

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

CDPH:

- <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Get-the-Most-out-of-Masking.aspx>
- <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Face-Coverings-QA.aspx>