



HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

Public Health Services
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COVID-19 has disrupted our lives and required changes in the way we interact with others. With a susceptible population and a virus that easily spreads person to person, we are challenged to find ways to more safely re-open businesses to protect both staff and the public. We appreciate the collaborative efforts being made to minimize risk and want you to be aware of supportive resources and guidance.

Testing:

There are COVID-19 specific testing sites readily available within our county. If you have an employee who is ill (non-emergent), we encourage you to provide information regarding these testing sites and how to register for an appointment. Individuals should contact their healthcare provider, however access to these special testing sites, does not require a physician referral. Employees can register for a test through website links on either hsahealth.org or stanemergency.com or use <http://schsa.org/PublicHealth/pages/corona-virus>. The registration process is available in English and Spanish. On average, the turnaround time from specimen collection to test result is currently 2 - 3 days. The test collection locations are as follows:

- Verily drive-through testing at the Salida Library
- OptumServe in Keyes (planned to move to West Modesto – tentatively June 8)
- OptumServe in Patterson

Clearance to return to work after being symptomatic:

1. If a COVID-19 test was positive or no test but employee stayed home with COVID-19 symptoms, employee can return to work after at least three days without fever (and without using medications to reduce fever) and at least 10 days have passed since symptoms began.
2. If COVID-19 test was negative: at least 3 days after fever resolves without the use of medications. If no fever, then can return to work 24 hours after symptoms resolve.

HVAC Systems:

Another key area that is often overlooked are Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning systems. We encourage you to maximize air exchanges and minimize air recirculation as these measures can decrease the risk of transmission.

Break Rooms:

Pay special attention to break rooms as they tend to be smaller, have many high-touch surfaces, and foster close proximity interactions with no face coverings given the opportunity to eat or drink. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was not unusual for Public Health to identify transmission of respiratory pathogens such as tuberculosis linked to the close contact in employee break rooms. In addition to disinfecting frequently, consider reducing the number of chairs at each table, allowing employees to eat in their work area if feasible, encouraging outdoor breaks, and other alternatives.

General guidance:

Additional actions to take to prevent spread include strongly recommending or requiring:

1. Keeping at least a six-foot distance from everyone at all times
2. Frequent hand washing or hand sanitizing. Place hand sanitizer in key areas around your business.
3. Wearing face coverings
4. Screen all employees for symptoms at the beginning of each shift

There are many resources to help navigate these issues. Overall guidance can be found at:

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html>.

California: <https://covid19.ca.gov/industry-guidance/>

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Vaishampayan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Julie Vaishampayan, MD, MPH
Public Health Officer
Stanislaus County

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