

Bulletin



Current COVID Workplace Safety Standards

Office of Safety

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Current COVID Workplace Safety Standards A Message from the Office of Corporate Health and Safety

Date: October 6, 2022

As a follow-up to the General Manager's 9/30/22 bulletin [Update to Face Covering Guidance](#), the information below outlines our current COVID Workplace Safety Standards, consistent with Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) orders and Cal/OSHA Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS). While transmission rates remain low, some COVID-19 restrictions remain in place.

All protective barriers that were installed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are to remain in place. However, in most workplace settings, including shared vehicles, **face coverings and distancing are no longer required** and are optional, with applicable exceptions listed below.

Indoor Healthcare Settings: Universal masking is required in all clinical areas for staff and visitors, regardless of vaccination status and community transmission level. Examples include Occupational Health Services located at JFB Room 538 and any Department-sponsored indoor medical settings, such as lab testing, vaccination events, etc.

Outbreaks: Face coverings are required for all employees in the exposed group when indoors, or when outdoors *and* less than six feet from another person. Outbreaks are identified and communicated by Corporate Health and Safety. Resource Office (RO) will advise on duration of masking. An exposed group is defined as: "all employees at a work location, working area, or a common area at work, where an employee COVID-19 case was present at any time during the infectious period." Common areas at work include: bathrooms, walkways, hallways, aisles, break or eating areas, and waiting areas.

Isolation (*positive test*): Employees who test positive for COVID must contact the RO positive hotline at (213) 367-6888 or email c19positive@ladwp.com to receive further guidance on when to return to work and on compensation guidelines. At this time, employees who test positive for COVID must isolate for 10 days. **NOTE:** LACDPH [health order](#) requires the use of face coverings during isolation.

Quarantine (*close contact, exposure to positive case*): Employees who have been a close contact must contact the RO general line at (213) 367-4444 or c19resource@ladwp.com for guidance on exiting quarantine and returning to work early. Employees exposed to a positive case must wear face coverings for 10 days from the date of their exposure or from the onset of any COVID-like symptoms, whichever occurs sooner. If the employee is exposed but without symptoms, they may remain in the workplace with their face covering for 10 days and must monitor for symptoms, must test between days three and five from exposure, and must send the test results to the RO.

- If the exposed employee is experiencing COVID-like symptoms, they must stay home, must test five days after the known exposure, and must send their test results to the RO. They may return to work if the test is negative and symptoms are not present.

NOTE: [Supplemental Paid Sick Leave](#) (SPSL) is available to employees through December 31, 2022. Personal banks of time may be used to cover absences if SPSL banks have been exhausted.

COVID-19 Rebound: COVID-19 “rebound” is characterized by a return of symptoms or positive test two to eight days after recovery. A person may have tested negative, but subsequently test positive two to eight days later. Employees who begin to have symptoms and/or test positive again two to eight days after their isolation period ended must:

- wear a face covering indoors, and outdoors while within six feet of others, for 10 days following the start of the rebound infection; and,
- contact the RO for a revised isolation recommendation (generally five additional days).

Reasonable Accommodation: Employees who qualify for an accommodation related to a medical condition, or a documented religious exemption, which prevents them from wearing a face covering when face coverings are required to be worn as outlined above:

- Must wear an effective non-restrictive alternative, such as a face shield with a drape on the bottom, so long as their condition or disability permits it.
- In the event an employee is unable to wear an alternative type of face covering, the employee will be engaged in an interactive accommodation discussion with their Reasonable Accommodations Coordinator. Please contact RAandLD@ladwp.com for inquiries.

Please note that masks will remain available at security kiosks for those who opt to wear one. Corporate Health and Safety continuously monitors local, state, and federal jurisdiction response plans and mitigation strategies for changes that merit revision to control measures, such as fluctuation in local transmission. Please contact corpsafety@ladwp.com for inquiries. For additional information on test kit distribution and vaccination events, visit www.ladwpemployeeinfo.com.


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