



[en Español](#) [Contact Us](#) [About News & Media](#) [Jobs/Careers](#)
[+ Increase](#) [Text](#) [Resize](#) [Reset to Default](#) - [Decrease](#)



Toggle navigation
MENU

Toggle navigation



• Text Size

- - [+ Increase](#) [Increase](#)
 - [- Decrease](#) [Decrease](#)
 - [Reset to Default](#) [Reset to Default](#)

• I am looking for

- - [COVID-19](#)
 - [Latest Updates & Information](#)
 - [Guidance Documents](#)
 - [COVID-19 Data & Tools](#)
 - [Protect & Prevent](#)
 - [Testing](#)
 - [Contact Tracing](#)
 - [COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
 - [Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#)
 - [Health Care & Testing](#)
 - [Home & Community](#)
 - [Diseases and Conditions](#)
 - [Diseases and Conditions](#)
 - [HIV/AIDS](#)
 - [Healthcare-Associated Infections](#)
 - [Cancer](#)
 - [Communicable Diseases](#)
 - [Diabetes](#)
 - [Disease Reporting](#)
 - [Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus Bloodstream Infection](#)
 - [Problem Gambling](#)
 - [Sexually Transmitted Diseases](#)
 - [See More](#)
 - [Licensing, Certification and Other Credentials](#)
 - [Certificates, Licenses, Permits and Registrations](#)
 - [Health Care Facility Licenses](#)
 - [Health Care Professionals](#)
 - [Laboratory](#)
 - [Medical Waste](#)
 - [Pet Importation and Exportation](#)

- Radiation and Nuclear
- Registered Environmental Health Specialist
- Vital Records
- Wild Animal Importation
- Medical Professional Licenses
- - Family Health
 - Breastfeeding
 - Genetic Disease Screening
 - Mental Health
 - Nutrition and Physical Activity
 - Pregnancy and Reproductive Health
 - Women, Infants, and Children
- - Personal Health and Prevention
 - Cannabis (Marijuana)
 - Immunizations
 - Nutrition
 - Quit Smoking
 - Sexually Transmitted Disease Testing
- - Health and Safety
 - Climate Change and Health
 - Emergency Preparedness
 - Environmental Health
 - Health in all Policies
 - Health Screening Locations
 - Mosquito Disease Surveillance and Control
 - Workplace Health
 - Vital Records
- - Health Facilities
 - File a Complaint
 - California Health Facilities Information Database
- - Administrative
 - Boards and Advisory Committees
 - Forms
 - Jobs and Careers
 - Local Health Services/Offices
 - Public Records Act Request
 - Proposed Regulations
- - Briefings
 - Stakeholder Brief
- I am a
 - - Clinician / Healthcare Provider
 - Legislator / Legislative Staff
 - Media Representative
 - Researcher / Statistician
 - Person Interested In
 - Infant and Child Health
 - Men's Health

- Senior Health
 - Women's Health
 - Youth and Young Adult's Health
 - LGBT Health
 - [Programs](#)
 - - Center for Healthy Communities
 - California Tobacco Control
 - Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention
 - Chronic Disease Control
 - Chronic Disease Surveillance and Research
 - Emergency Preparedness
 - [See More](#)
 - - Center for Environmental Health
 - Division of Food, Drug, and Cannabis Safety
 - Division of Radiation Safety and Environmental Management
 - - Center for Family Health
 - Genetic Disease Screening Program
 - Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health
 - Women, Infants, and Children
 - - Center for Health Care Quality
 - Healthcare-Associated Infections Program
 - Licensing and Certification
 - - Center for Health Statistics and Informatics
 - End of Life Option Act
 - Medical Marijuana Identification Card Program
 - Vital Records
 - Vital Records Data and Statistics
 - - Center for Infectious Diseases
 - HIV/AIDS
 - Binational Border Health
 - Communicable Disease Control
 - Communicable Disease Emergency Response
 - Refugee Health
 - [See More](#)
 - - Director / State Public Health Officer
 - Legislative and Governmental Affairs
 - Let's Talk Cannabis
 - Office of Health Equity
 - Office of Public Affairs
 - [See More](#)
 - - Other CDPH Offices
 - Emergency Preparedness Office
 - Office of State Public Health Laboratory Director
 - Laboratory Field Services
 - Privacy Office
 - Office of Regulations
 - [A-Z Index](#)
-



Order-of-the-State-Public-Health-Officer-Health-Care-Worker-Vaccine-Rec

Top Menu

Division of Communicable Disease Control

Division of Communicable Disease Control > Pages > COVID-19 > Order-of-the-State-Public-Health-Officer-Health-Care-Worker-Vaccine-Requirement

- [Home](#)
- [Programs](#)
- [Center for Infectious Diseases](#)
- [Division of Communicable Disease Control](#)
- [Order of the State Public Health Officer Health Care Worker Vaccine Requirement](#)

Toggle navigation **COVID-19 Menu**



TOMÁS J. ARAGÓN, M.D., Dr.P.H.
State Public Health Officer & Director

August 5, 2021

TO: All Californians

SUBJECT: Health Care Worker Vaccine Requirement



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency California Department of Public Health

Related Materials: [Health Care Worker Vaccine Requirement Q&A](#)

State Public Health Officer Order of August 5, 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic remains a significant challenge in California. COVID-19 vaccines are effective in reducing infection and serious disease. At present, 63% of Californians 12 years of age and older are fully vaccinated with an additional 10% partially vaccinated. California is currently experiencing the fastest increase in COVID-19 cases during the entire pandemic with 18.3 new cases per 100,000 people per day, with case rates increasing ninefold within two months. The Delta variant is highly transmissible and may cause more severe illness. In fact, recent data suggests that viral load is roughly 1,000 times higher in people infected with the Delta variant than those infected with the original coronavirus strain, according to a recent study. The Delta variant is currently the most common variant causing new infections in California.

Unvaccinated persons are more likely to get infected and spread the virus, which is transmitted through the air. Most current hospitalizations and deaths are among unvaccinated persons. Thanks to vaccinations and to measures taken since March 2020, California's health care system is currently able to address the increase in cases and hospitalizations. However, additional statewide facility-directed measures are necessary to protect particularly vulnerable populations, and ensure a sufficient, consistent supply of workers in high-risk health care settings.

Hospitals, skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), and the other health care facility types identified in this order are particularly high-risk settings where COVID-19 outbreaks can have severe consequences for vulnerable populations including hospitalization, severe illness, and death. Further, the settings in this order share several features. There is frequent exposure to staff and highly vulnerable patients, including elderly, chronically ill, critically ill, medically fragile, and disabled patients. In many of these settings, the patients are at high risk of severe COVID-19 disease due to underlying health conditions, advanced age, or both.

Vaccinations have been available in California from December 2020 to the present, and from January 1, 2021, to July 12, 2021, a total of 9,371 confirmed COVID-19 outbreaks and 113,196 outbreak-related cases were reported to CDPH. Increasing numbers of health care workers are among the new positive cases, despite vaccinations being prioritized for this group when vaccines initially became available. Recent outbreaks in health care settings have frequently been traced to unvaccinated staff members.

Vaccination against COVID-19 is the most effective means of preventing infection with the COVID-19 virus, and subsequent transmission and outbreaks. As we respond to the dramatic increase in cases, all health care workers must be vaccinated to reduce the chance of transmission to vulnerable populations.

For these reasons, COVID-19 remains a concern to public health and, in order to prevent its further spread in hospitals, SNFs, and other health care settings, new public health requirements are necessary at this time.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, as State Public Health Officer of the State of California, order:

1. All workers who provide services or work in facilities described in subdivision (a) have their first dose of a one-dose regimen or their second dose of a two-dose regimen by September 30, 2021:

a. Health Care Facilities:

- General Acute Care Hospitals
- Skilled Nursing Facilities (including Subacute Facilities)
- Intermediate Care Facilities

- iv. Acute Psychiatric Hospitals
- v. Adult Day Health Care Centers
- vi. Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) and PACE Centers
- vii. Ambulatory Surgery Centers
- viii. Chemical Dependency Recovery Hospitals
- ix. Clinics & Doctor Offices (including behavioral health, surgical)
- x. Congregate Living Health Facilities
- xi. Dialysis Centers
- xii. Hospice Facilities
- xiii. Pediatric Day Health and Respite Care Facilities
- xiv. Residential Substance Use Treatment and Mental Health Treatment Facilities

b. Two-dose vaccines include: Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna or vaccine authorized by the World Health Organization. The one-dose vaccine is: Johnson and Johnson [J&J]/Janssen. All COVID-19 vaccines that are currently authorized for emergency use can be found at the following links:

- i. By the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), are listed at the [FDA COVID-19 Vaccines webpage](#).
- ii. By the World Health Organization (WHO), are listed at the [WHO COVID-19 Vaccines webpage](#).

c. "Worker" refers to all paid and unpaid individuals who work in indoor settings where (1) care is provided to patients, or (2) patients have access for any purpose. This includes workers serving in health care or other health care settings who have the potential for direct or indirect exposure to patients or SARS-CoV-2 airborne aerosols. Workers include, but are not limited to, nurses, nursing assistants, physicians, technicians, therapists, phlebotomists, pharmacists, students and trainees, contractual staff not employed by the health care facility, and persons not directly involved in patient care, but who could be exposed to infectious agents that can be transmitted in the health care setting (e.g., clerical, dietary, environmental services, laundry, security, engineering and facilities management, administrative, billing, and volunteer personnel).

2. Workers may be exempt from the vaccination requirements under section (1) only upon providing the operator of the facility a declination form, signed by the individual stating either of the following: (1) the worker is declining vaccination based on Religious Beliefs, or (2) the worker is excused from receiving any COVID-19 vaccine due to Qualifying Medical Reasons.

a. To be eligible for a Qualified Medical Reasons exemption the worker must also provide to their employer a written statement signed by a physician, nurse practitioner, or other licensed medical professional practicing under the license of a physician stating that the individual qualifies for the exemption (but the statement should not describe the underlying medical condition or disability) and indicating the probable duration of the worker's inability to receive the vaccine (or if the duration is unknown or permanent, so indicate).

3. If an operator of a facility listed above under section (1) deems a worker to have met the requirements of an exemption pursuant to section (2), the unvaccinated exempt worker must meet the following requirements when entering or working in such facility:

- a. Test for COVID-19 with either PCR or antigen test that either has Emergency Use Authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or be operating per the Laboratory Developed Test requirements by the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Testing must occur twice weekly for unvaccinated exempt workers in acute health care and long-term care settings, and once weekly for such workers in other health care settings.
- b. Wear a surgical mask or higher-level respirator approved by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), such as an N95 filtering facepiece respirator, at all times while in the facility.

4. Consistent with applicable privacy laws and regulations, the operator of the facility must maintain records of workers' vaccination or exemption status. If the worker is exempt pursuant to section (2), the operator of the facility then also must maintain records of the workers' testing results pursuant to section (3).

- a. The facility must provide such records to the local or state Public Health Officer or their designee promptly upon request, and in any event no later than the next business day after receiving the request.
- b. Operators of the facilities subject to the requirement under section (1) must maintain records pursuant to the CDPH Guidance for Vaccine Records Guidelines & Standards with the following information: (1) full name and date of birth; (2) vaccine manufacturer; and (3) date of vaccine administration (for first dose and, if applicable, second dose).
- c. For unvaccinated workers: signed declination forms with written health care provider's statement where applicable, as described in section (2) above. Testing records pursuant to section (3) must be maintained.

5. Nothing in this Order limits otherwise applicable requirements related to Personal Protective Equipment, personnel training, and infection control policies and practices.

6. Facilities covered by this Order are encouraged to provide onsite vaccinations, easy access to nearby vaccinations, and education and outreach on vaccinations, including:

- a. access to epidemiologists, physicians, and other counselors who can answer questions or concerns related to vaccinations and provide culturally sensitive advice; and
- b. access to online resources providing up to date information on COVID-19 science and research.

7. The July 26 Public Health Order will continue to apply.

8. This Order shall take effect on August 5, 2021, and facilities must be in full compliance with the Order by September 30, 2021.

9. This Order is issued pursuant to Health and Safety Code sections 120125, 120140, 120175, 120195 and 131080 and other applicable law.

Tomas Aragon Signature

Tomás J. Aragón, MD, DrPH

Director and State Public Health Officer

California Department of Public Health

California Department of Public Health
PO Box, 997377, MS 0500, Sacramento, CA 95899-7377
Department Website (cdph.ca.gov)

Public Health
Accredited Health
Department Logo

[To Top](#) [Back To Top](#)

 [Search unclaimed property in California](#)



Amber Alert California

California Governor

Gavin Newsom

[Visit Governor's Website](#)



Welcome Message



- [Jobs/Careers](#)
- [Privacy Policy](#)
- [Use Policy](#)
- [Web Accessibility Certification](#)
- [Sitemap](#)
- [Feedback](#)
- [Download pdf viewer](#)

Useful Links

- [State Agency Directory](#)
- [CA Health & Human Services](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Twitter](#) [You Tube](#) [Facebook](#) [instagram](#)
California Department of Public Health