



Face Masking and Weekly Testing Required in Contra Costa County for Workers Without Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination in High-Risk Settings

June 28, 2021: Hospitals, nursing and residential care facilities for the elderly, homeless shelters and detention facilities in Contra Costa County must require personnel to provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19 or wear face coverings on the job and get tested weekly for the virus, beginning on July 27.

The new county health order, enacted June 29, expands the COVID-19 workplace safety requirements enacted by the state for these facilities and businesses by adding a requirement that unvaccinated employees test weekly for COVID-19 and promptly provide testing results to their employers.

This health order does not apply to other facilities or businesses beyond those specified. Patients and residents are at high risk of serious illness from COVID-19 infection in these facilities, where a high number of documented outbreaks and COVID-related deaths have occurred in Contra Costa throughout the pandemic.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) already [requires workers and visitors to these facilities to wear face coverings](#) regardless of vaccination status, with a [few exemptions](#). The new county order requires workers in these settings to wear surgical or N-95 masks or their approved equivalents.

The new county order also requires operators to retain proof of vaccination for employees who attest that they are vaccinated, such as copies of official vaccination records or documentation from healthcare providers.

The Division of Occupational Safety and Health of California's Department of Industrial Relations (Cal/OSHA) [requires unvaccinated employees to wear face coverings](#) in most workplace settings, but does not specify how employers should verify the vaccination status of their workers.

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