



COUNTY OF YOLO

Health and Human Services Agency

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Health Alert

Date: March 27, 2023

To: Yolo County Healthcare Providers

From: Aimee Sisson, MD, MPH, Yolo County Health Officer

Subject: Review of COVID-19 Policies, Including Upcoming Changes

This Health Alert reviews current and forthcoming COVID-19 requirements related to masking, vaccination, isolation, and reporting of COVID-19.

Background

Throughout the pandemic, COVID-19 policies have been developed at multiple levels—federal, State, local, and organizational. In general, policies issued at a lower level can be more restrictive/protective than policies issued at a higher level, but not less restrictive/protective. With the recent end of State and local COVID-19 emergencies on February 28, 2023, State and local policies related to COVID-19 are changing, with impacts on health care providers in Yolo County. As State and local policies become less restrictive, particularly related to masking, health systems and providers have opportunities to develop their own policies to protect healthcare workers and patients.

Masking in Healthcare Settings

Effective April 3, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) will no longer require universal masking in healthcare settings. Instead, CDPH's [updated masking guidance](#) encourages facilities to develop their own masking policies: "Health care facilities and other high-risk setting operators should develop and implement their own facility-specific plans based on their community, patient population, and other facility considerations incorporating CDPH and CDC recommendations." **Yolo County Public Health will continue to align with CDPH masking guidance. Yolo County healthcare facilities are encouraged to develop their own policies that take into account CDPH and CDC recommendations to mask based on COVID-19 Community Levels, with masking strongly recommended in High, recommended in Medium, and considered in Low. A facility that wishes to continue to require universal masking or masking of workers is permitted to do so.**

Davis

600 A Street
Davis, CA 95616
Mental Health (530) 757-5530

West Sacramento

500 Jefferson Boulevard
West Sacramento, CA 95605
Service Center (916) 375-6200
Mental Health (916) 375-6350
Public Health (916) 375-6380

Winters

111 East Grant Avenue
Winters, CA 95694
Service Center (530) 406-4444

Woodland

25 & 137 N. Cottonwood Street
Woodland, CA 95695
Service Center (530) 661-2750
Mental Health (530) 666-8630
Public Health (530) 666-8645

The October 11, 2022 [Health Officer Order for Mandatory Influenza Vaccination for All Health Care Workers in Yolo County](#) remains in effect through April 30, 2023. Workers in healthcare facilities who are not vaccinated against influenza must wear a surgical mask in the facility through April 30. In future years, this Order will likely be expanded to include COVID-19 vaccination.

Vaccination of Healthcare Workers

Effective April 3, CDPH will no longer require vaccination and boosting of [healthcare](#) and [adult care](#) workers against COVID-19. However, the **[federal requirement for workers in Medicaid- and Medicare-certified facilities to be vaccinated against COVID-19 with a primary series remains in effect](#)**. Yolo County Public Health has no COVID-19 vaccination requirements of its own.

Isolation of Infected Patients

As of March 1, the Mass Isolation Order of the Yolo County Public Health Officer has been [rescinded](#). Persons in Yolo County are now advised to follow State isolation guidance.

As of March 13, updated [CDPH guidance on isolation](#) allows members of the general public who have COVID-19 to end isolation after 5 days without a negative test if their symptoms have improved and they have been without fever for at least 24 hours. Persons leaving isolation are *recommended* to wear a mask when around others for a total of 10 days (in the case of persons returning to work after infection, masking for 10 days is *required* by [Cal/OSHA Non-Emergency Regulations](#)). Isolation requirements for residents of [skilled nursing facilities](#) and [other long-term care facilities](#) are more stringent and generally require 10 days of isolation.

Isolation of Infected Healthcare Workers

Isolation requirements for healthcare workers with COVID-19 depend on the setting. Isolation requirements for workers in hospitals and skilled nursing facilities are outlined in CDPH All Facilities Letter ([AFL 21-08](#)). Isolation requirements for workers in non-healthcare long-term care facilities are outlined in California Department of Social Services (CDSS) Provider Information Notice ([PIN\) 23-02-ASC](#)).

Reporting of COVID-19 Cases in Patients

[CDPH](#) requires healthcare providers to report COVID-19 cases as follows:

- Patient hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID-19 must be reported within 1 working day to the local health department
- Hospitals must report data weekly to CDPH regarding discharged COVID-19 patients per [AFL 21-25](#)
- Healthcare providers conducting point-of-care testing for COVID-19 must report all test results, positive and negative, within 24 hours of results being available (same requirements as laboratories).

Reporting of COVID-19 Outbreaks

[CDPH AFL 23-09](#) outlines thresholds for reporting COVID-19 outbreaks to local public health depending on facility type.

Hospitals are required to report as follows: ≥ 2 cases of probable or confirmed COVID-19 in a patient 4 or more days after admission for a non-COVID condition, with epi-linkage; ≥ 3 cases of suspect, probable or confirmed COVID-19 in healthcare provider (HCP) with epi-linkage in counties where the level of SARS-CoV-2 transmission in the community is low to moderate, or; any identified cluster of suspect, probable or confirmed COVID-19 in HCP with epi-linkage in counties where the level of SARS-CoV-2 transmission in the community is substantial or high (or $\geq 100/100,000$ for 7 days).

Skilled nursing facilities are required to report as follows: ≥ 1 probable or confirmed COVID-19 case in a resident or HCP; ≥ 3 cases of acute illness compatible with COVID-19 in residents with onset within a 72-hour period; ≥ 1 probable or confirmed COVID-19 case in HCP.

CDSS [PIN 23-04-CCLD](#) outlines reporting requirements in **non-healthcare long-term care settings like assisted living facilities**. CDSS-licensed facilities are required to report as follows: At least three suspected, probable, or confirmed COVID-19 cases within a 14-day period among epidemiologically linked residents and/or staff.

To report COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations, deaths, or outbreaks, please call 530-666-8614 (select option 2), e-mail CMR.FAX@yolocounty.org, or use the confidential fax (530-669-1549).

If you have any questions about current and forthcoming COVID-19 requirements, please contact Yolo County's COVID-19 Provider Line at 530-666-8614, option 2.