



NECA Safety

Cal-OSHA ETS Update

What is the Coronavirus?

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease caused by the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)-CoV-2 virus. The current mutation is a new strain of the SARS virus and no individual has any immunity prior to an exposure. The CDC has reported that testing has begun on a vaccine but for now, everyone should prepare and plan for possible impacts resulting from COVID-19. It has spread from China to many other countries around the world, including the United States.

On June 17th, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed an executive order to enable the latest revisions of the Cal-OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standard, (ETS), to take effect without the review period normally required by the Office of Administrative law. This executive order waives the 10-day review period and provides more immediate clarity to California employers and employees as the state moves to fully open for business.

By adopting the latest guidance from the California Department of Public Health, fully vaccinated persons in the workforce may forego wearing facial coverings and are exempt from testing or isolation requirements if they come in contact with a COVID-19 positive person in most workplaces. The latest revision also removes physical distancing and separation requirements. Workers are still required to wear appropriate masks when using public transportation and in educational facilities, healthcare settings, correctional facilities, detention centers, and homeless/emergency shelters including cooling centers. For more information on the California Guidance for Face Masks, please visit: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx>

A key provision still found in the latest revision requires employers to provide N95 rated respirators for unvaccinated employees. Businesses seeking assistance to provide N95 respirators as required by the revised Emergency Temporary Standard can find distribution locations for state-provided N95 respirators; can visit: <https://saferatwork.covid19.ca.gov/n95-distribution/>

To view the full text of Executive Order N-09-21 from Governor Newsom that has been filed with the California Secretary of State, click on: <https://www.gov.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/6.17.21-ETS-EO-N-09-21.pdf>

Additional Information on what employers need to know about these revisions can be found at: https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/dosh_publications/06-16-21-ETS-Revisions.pdf

NECA will continue to monitor federal and state Coronavirus and COVID-19 regulations and revisions to provide members with updated information. Please visit the NECA Coronavirus Resource Center for the latest information, <https://www.necanet.org/industry-priorities/safety-regulations/neca-coronavirus-resource-center>



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