

NECA Safety

CDC: Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People

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.

Unfortunately, the recent uptick in COVID-19 cases in some regions, along with concerns over the Delta Variant, has resulted in new and stricter guidelines and recommendations from the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). NECA recently distributed a Legal Alert on this development.

As we have advised in the past, the CDC guidelines are typically quickly implemented at the federal, and many state and local levels. We urge all chapters and members to monitor all mandates and recommendations that will undoubtedly follow the new CDC protocols in your local area.

The new CDC “[Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#),” recommends as follows:

- that fully vaccinated people wear masks in public indoor settings in areas where there is [substantial or high transmission](#);
- that fully vaccinated people can choose to wear a mask regardless of the level of transmission, particularly if:
 - ◆ they are immunocompromised or
 - ◆ at increased risk for severe disease from COVID-19, or
 - ◆ if they have someone in their household who is immunocompromised, at increased risk of severe disease or not fully vaccinated; and
- fully vaccinated people who have a known exposure to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case be tested 3-5 days after exposure and wear a mask in public indoor settings for 14 days or until they receive a negative test result

In the District of Columbia, the Mayor has issued an Executive Order that, among other things, has re-instituted indoor mask requirements for all persons inside public buildings regardless of vaccination status:

https://mayor.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/mayoromb/page_content/attachments/COVID-Situational-Update-Presentation-07-29-21.pdf

The requirements in DC will stay in effect until further notice. As such, NECA National is adjusting its COVID-19 protocols to comply with this new mandate and to comport with the revised CDC Guidance.

While being mindful of local requirements, NECA Chapters and Members should consider revising their current COVID-19 protocols to include additional provisions applicable to unvaccinated personnel such as travel restrictions, stricter masking protocols, and regular COVID-19 testing requirements.

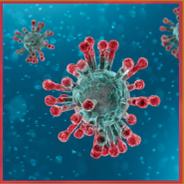
Any and all requirements that are implemented internally and communicated externally should follow all legal guidelines and comply with EEOC reasonable accommodation requirements set forth by the agency. Remember that local, state, or territorial health authorities may require SARS Covid-19 Viral Testing before or after domestic travel.

The CDC recognizes that fully vaccinated persons can safely participate in many of the activities they did before the pandemic but also recognizes that in indoor public settings, around other individuals, both vaccinated and non-vaccinated, individuals may be required to wear a mask to help prevent further spread of the Coronavirus and its latest variant, the



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Delta Variant. The key here is that the CDC acknowledges that vaccinated persons can become infected and spread the virus to others while only experiencing minimal symptoms themselves.

As always, if you and anyone you may have been in contact with tests positive for COVID-19, is experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or is concerned with their own or addition family members safety, they should isolate and quarantine according to CDC and other health guidance provided by authorities.

NECA will continue to monitor developments related to COVID-19 and provide updates as necessary.

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