

Office of the Director

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Governor Gavin Newsom
Secretary, Government Operations Agency Yolanda Richardson
Director Eraina Ortega

July 26, 2021

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Re: Vaccine Verification and Testing Requirements

Dear Colleagues,

Today Governor Newsom announced enhanced safety measures requiring employees in health care settings be vaccinated or tested regularly for COVID-19 effective August 9, 2021 and by no later than August 23, 2021. The state as one of the largest employers in California will lead by example, and through CalHR, will implement a policy requiring vaccine verification of all state employees and mandating regular COVID-19 testing for all unvaccinated employees working on site. Attached you will find a notice of this policy sent to state employee representatives.

Self-attestation of vaccine status will not be sufficient evidence of vaccination for exemption from testing or wearing a face covering in state facilities. State departments are instructed to implement procedures to collect and maintain evidence of vaccination from employees as soon as possible, with full compliance by Monday, August 2, 2021. Vaccine verification will also support more effective enforcement of the existing requirement that unvaccinated individuals wear masks.

Any employee seeking exemption from COVID-19 testing or wearing a face covering must provide evidence of vaccination. Employees should access their Digital COVID-19 Vaccine Record to receive a link to a QR code* and digital copy of their vaccine record. If an employee cannot access their digital vaccine record, they may provide a vaccine card or other medical record establishing full vaccination.

State departments will implement COVID-19 testing of unvaccinated state employees pursuant to the final policy. The testing protocol for state employees will be phased in over a period of weeks. Departments will provide notice to the designated employee representatives once the testing protocol and start date for their department is established.

Because the increase in cases is heavily concentrated in unvaccinated individuals, and consistent with guidance from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the Centers for Disease Control, and the Emergency Temporary Standards approved by the California Occupational Safety and Health Board, fully vaccinated individuals are exempt from COVID-19 testing. Fully vaccinated individuals shall be allowed to elect to participate in COVID-19 testing.

More information will be provided in the coming days as we secure and begin to deploy testing resources. Government Operations Agency will schedule a call to provide more details and answer questions. Additionally, we will work with CDPH to provide training sessions for implementing testing programs.

Questions about testing policies should be sent to CalHR Labor Relations LR.info@calhr.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Eraina

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