



TOMÁS J. ARAGÓN, MD, DrPH
Director and State Public Health Officer

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

June 7, 2021

Dear Board Members,

The COVID-19 vaccines are effective in preventing infection, disease, and spread. More than two-thirds of adult Californians are fully vaccinated, and thanks to these efforts and the actions of many California residents, the state has maintained a stable test positivity rate beneath 1% and a stable case rate that remains one of the lowest in the nation. California is on track to move beyond the Blueprint for a Safer Economy, and all restrictions listed in the current Blueprint Activities and Business Tiers Chart¹ will be lifted, with limited exceptions for Mega Events, effective June 15, 2021.

Further, as stated publicly by Governor Newsom and California Health and Human Services Secretary Dr. Mark Ghaly, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) will amend the state's requirements on the use of face coverings to align with guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), also effective June 15, 2021.

Accordingly, as of June 15, face coverings will no longer be required for fully vaccinated Californians in public settings, except in the settings where CDC advises that all individuals should wear face coverings regardless of vaccination status, such as healthcare settings² and long-term care facilities,³ public transit,⁴ and sheltering operations⁵. Accordingly, CDPH will align its face coverings guidance with the CDC by requiring face coverings for all individuals in those unique settings.

The CDC also advises that unvaccinated individuals are more likely to get infected and spread the virus, which is transmitted through the air and concentrates indoors and that consistent and correct mask use by people who are not fully vaccinated is especially important indoors. Accordingly, CDPH will

¹ https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/CDPH%20Document%20Library/COVID-19/Dimmer-Framework-September_2020.pdf

² <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-after-vaccination.html>

³ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/long-term-care.html#distancing-measures>

⁴ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/face-masks-public-transportation.html>

⁵ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/eh-practitioners/general-population-disaster-shelters.html>



align its face coverings guidance with the CDC by requiring face coverings for all unvaccinated individuals in indoor public settings and businesses.

In settings where masks are required only for unvaccinated individuals, CDPH's guidance will advise that businesses may choose to allow individuals to self-attest their vaccine status, implement vaccine verification measures, or require all patrons to wear masks. Further, CDPH will affirm that no person can be prevented from wearing a mask as a condition of participation in an activity or entry into a business.

Finally, CDPH's updated face coverings guidance will continue to recognize that in workplaces, employers are subject to the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS) or in some workplaces the Cal/OSHA Aerosol Transmissible Diseases Standard, and should consult those regulations for additional applicable requirements. The Department remains supportive of your and Cal/OSHA's efforts to revise the ETS, which remains important to ensuring that California continues its progress in moving beyond the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tomás Aragón". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tomás J. Aragón, MD, DrPH,
Director and State Health Officer
California Department of Public Health