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HEALTH ADVISORY
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CDPH Updates COVID-19 Guidance

TO: Healthcare Providers
FROM: Christine Wu, MD, MPH
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Summary:

On March 3rd, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) announced several updates to the State Public Health Officer orders that have been guiding California's healthcare providers on best practices throughout the pandemic. The updated orders will be taking effect in the coming weeks and provide updates related to vaccination, masking, and hospital surges.

As we continue to navigate the winter virus season and the upcoming changes in guidance, healthcare sites are encouraged to develop and review their own policies around vaccination, masking, and hospital surges. As a reminder, for the 2022-2023 influenza season, Napa County continues to have the annual Health Officer Order in place requiring healthcare workers to vaccinate or mask. Masking and staying up to date on all recommended vaccinations remain an effective mitigation measure for the current respiratory season and are still recommended.

CHANGES:

CDPH is making the following changes to existing COVID-19 guidance:

- **Masking in High-risk and Health Care Settings**

Beginning April 3rd, masks will no longer be required in healthcare settings and other high-risk, indoor settings. This includes healthcare, long-term care, and correctional facilities, as well as homeless shelters, emergency shelters, and warming and cooling centers. This change will take effect on Monday, April 3rd to allow healthcare facilities to develop and implement plans customized to their needs and to local conditions. CDPH guidance on face masks will be based on [CDC COVID-19 Community Levels](#) beyond the end of the California State of Emergency. Healthcare facilities are strongly encouraged to develop their own masking policies. CDPH's current recommendations for the use of face masks for individuals will remain unchanged until April 2nd. [See masking guidance](#)

- **Vaccine Requirements for Health Care Workers**

Beginning April 3rd, with [federal rules](#) continuing to ensure that most healthcare workers remain vaccinated for COVID-19, the state of California will no longer require [vaccination for](#)

[healthcare workers](#), including those in adult care, direct care, correctional facilities, and detention centers. Most healthcare facilities have employment vaccination requirements and are encouraged to ensure staff continue to follow ACIP recommendations for remaining up to date on all relevant vaccines. Changes to healthcare vaccine requirements take effect on Monday, April 3rd to allow facilities to develop and implement plans customized to both their needs and to local conditions.

- **Hospital Surge Order**

On April 3rd, CDPH will rescind [an order](#) that required hospitals statewide to accept transfer patients from facilities with limited ICU capacity as needed. ICU capacity has not been limited during recent COVID-19 surges after the broad use of vaccines and treatments.

- **Vaccine Data Collection**

Also being rescinded on April 3rd is [an order](#) that required providers to ask patients for their email addresses and/or mobile phone numbers when receiving a COVID-19 vaccine. New legislation requires that California healthcare providers who administer vaccines enter information about patients, including telephone numbers and race and ethnicity.

- **Definition of Infectious Period**

Beginning March 13th, infectious periods are updated to be in alignment with CDC recommendations for people with COVID-19.

Infectious Periods are defined as:

- For symptomatic confirmed cases, 2 days before the confirmed case had any symptoms (symptom onset date is Day 0) through Days 5–10 after symptoms first appeared AND 24 hours have passed with no fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications, and symptoms have improved, OR
- For asymptomatic confirmed cases, 2 days before the positive specimen collection date (collection date is Day 0) through Day 5 after positive specimen collection date for their first positive COVID-19 test.

REMAINING THE SAME:

- **COVID-19 Outbreak Investigation and Reporting Thresholds**

Licensed health facilities are required to report outbreaks and unusual infectious disease occurrences to the local health department. [AFL-23-09](#)

- Acute Care Hospitals Thresholds for Reporting:
 - ≥ 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 personnel (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)
- Long-Term Care Facilities Thresholds for Reporting:

- ≥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

- **Current COVID-19 Isolation and Quarantine Guidance in Healthcare Settings**

For isolation and quarantine guidance in healthcare settings, healthcare workers and non-healthcare workers should continue to follow [AFL 21-08](#). Staff in healthcare settings will isolate for 5 days with at least one negative diagnostic test the same day or within 24 hours prior to return OR isolate 10 days without a viral test. In [AFL 22-13](#), COVID-19 positive skilled nursing facilities residents are recommended to isolate for 10 days.

We continue to strongly urge providers, patients, and visitors in high-risk healthcare settings to mask and remain up to date on COVID-19, influenza, and other recommended vaccines.

For questions, healthcare providers can contact Napa County Public Health at (707) 253-4231 or go to our website at <https://www.countyofnapa.org/541/Communicable-Diseases>.

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