

Effective March 13, 2023:

- **Reduced Isolation Time After Positive COVID-19 Test**

Beginning March 13, a COVID-19 positive person may end isolation after five days if they feel well, have improving symptoms, and are fever-free for 24 hours, with less emphasis on testing negative. [This change](#) aligns with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations.

Per [CDPH masking guidance](#), confirmed cases should wear a well-fitting mask around others for 10 days, especially indoors, but they may remove their mask sooner than Day 10 if they have 2 sequential negative tests at least one day apart. If antigen test results are positive, the case may still be infectious and should continue wearing a mask and wait at least one day before taking another test.

Per Cal/OSHA, in the workplace, regardless of vaccination status, previous infection, or lack of COVID-19 symptoms, a COVID-19 case shall wear a face covering in the workplace until 10 days have passed since the date that COVID-19 symptoms began or, if the person did not have COVID-19 symptoms, from the date of their first positive COVID-19 test.

- **Disease Control and Prevention Order**

The state public health officer order formerly known as Beyond the Blueprint is being updated to align with CDPH's isolation recommendations above and includes an updated definition for a confirmed COVID-19 case. [The updated order](#) provides prevention and mitigation strategies for slowing the spread of COVID-19 in homes, workplaces, and communities.

- Infectious Period is 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.
- Confirmed Case is defined as:
 - A person who has received a positive result of the presence of SARS-CoV-2 virus as confirmed by a COVID-19 viral test or [clinical diagnosis](#)
 - ****NCPH will continue to use our current definitions of confirmed, probable, or suspect cases until instructed otherwise****

Effective April 3, 2023

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

Masks will no longer be required in indoor high-risk and health care settings. This includes health care, long-term care, and correctional facilities as well as homeless, emergency, and warming and cooling centers. CDPH's recommendations for the use of face masks for individuals remain unchanged. [See masking guidance.](#)

There may be masking requirements for facility staff that are more strict than the [CDPH Guidance for the Use of Face Masks](#) (See also [COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations](#) and [Cal/OSHA's standards for Aerosol Transmissible Diseases \(ATD\)](#)). Licensees should follow the strictest requirements.

- **Vaccine Requirements for Health Care Workers**

The state will no longer require [vaccination for health care workers](#) including those in adult care, direct care, correctional facilities, and detention centers.

CMS continues to require primary vaccination series for Medi-Cal and Medicare providers, at least until the end of the federal state of emergency on May 11, 2023.

RESOURCES REMAIN AVAILABLE: Access to Vaccines, Testing and Treatment

- COVID-19 vaccines, testing, and treatment continue to be available through providers and some pharmacies and at some sites within local communities. Visit [MyTurn](#) to find services in your area.
- [Treatment](#) is available through providers and some pharmacies. Individuals who are uninsured or can't get timely treatment can call [833-686-5051](#) or visit [sesamecare.com/covidca](#).
- I am not aware of an end date for these services, but I will let you know if I become aware

Link to information about upcoming CMS changes effective May 11, 2023:

<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/cms-waivers-flexibilities-and-transition-forward-covid-19-public-health-emergency>