



THE STEPPING STONES GROUP

Transforming Lives Together



Date: March 7, 2022
To: SSG California Staff
Subject: Updates to California Mask Mandate

Dear Colleagues,

[California Public Health Department \(CADPH\) issued recent updates regarding mask mandates:](#)

1. **Mandatory mask requirements**, regardless of vaccination status, are required in healthcare settings. If you work in a facility that is mostly administrative but is also a clinical setting (e.g., speech therapy), fully vaccinated staff may unmask when clients are not present.
2. **Masks are not required in non-healthcare** settings for fully vaccinated staff, visitors, and clients.
 1. **Fully vaccinated**
 1. Staff who have not provided SSG with their fully vaccinated status at may do so at the following link:[UAP Employee Vaccination or Covid Test Submission](#).
 2. Visitors and clients may self-attest their vaccination status; however, some local ordinances may require proof of vaccination (e.g., Los Angeles County requires customers and visitors to present proof of vaccination). Should it be impractical to check a client or visitor's vaccination status, on-site staff should wear a mask while the visitor or client is in the facility.
 2. **Non vaccinated staff** who wish to unmask onsite must provide a negative Covid-19 viral test every 3 days prior to entry.
3. **Exceptions** – Per the [Cal OSHA ETS](#), masks are not required when eating or drinking; six feet apart from others; outside; alone in a room.
4. **Exemptions** – The following **individuals** are exempt from wearing masks at all times:



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1. Persons younger than two years old. Very young children must not wear a mask because of the risk of suffocation.
 2. Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a mask. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a mask could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a mask without assistance.
 3. Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
 4. Persons for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.
 5. **Social distancing considerations**
 1. **Social distancing practices** shall be observed when required to wear a mask but unable to do so under the following conditions:
 1. Inability to wear a mask due to an exception as noted in item C.
 2. Inability to wear a mask due to an exemption as noted in item D.
 2. **Maximum room capacity** shall not exceed the number required to properly maintain social distancing.
 6. **K-12 and Childcare settings** – for staff working in K-12 and childcare settings, the universal mask requirement will terminate on March 11, 2022. Please note that some school districts and childcare settings may continue to require masks.

Thank you,

The Stepping Stones Group HR Department