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GAVIN NEWSOM
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TO: All Californians

SUBJECT: COVID-19 Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People

Updates as of May 3, 2021:

- Amended to reflect updated CDPH Face Coverings guidance and clarify that provisions related to the quarantine of fully vaccinated persons apply to non-healthcare workplaces and the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards that apply to fully vaccinated persons.

On April 2, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People and on April 27, 2021, the CDC updated Choosing Safer Activities. CDPH supports these updated guidance documents, and recommendations are summarized below. This guidance does not apply to healthcare settings.

Overview

Currently authorized vaccines in the United States are highly effective at protecting vaccinated people against symptomatic and severe COVID-19 and a growing body of evidence suggests that fully vaccinated people are less likely to have asymptomatic infection and potentially less likely to transmit SARS-CoV-2 to others. How long vaccine protection lasts and how much vaccines protect against emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants are still under investigation. Until more is known and vaccination coverage increases, prevention measures will continue to be necessary for all people, regardless of vaccination status.

Who is considered a fully vaccinated person?

For the purposes of this guidance, people are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19: two weeks or more after they have received the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), or two weeks or more after they have received a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson [J&J]/Janssen).^[1]

Key Points

Fully vaccinated people can^[1]:

- Spend time with other fully vaccinated people, including indoors, without wearing masks or physical distancing (outside a workplace setting).
- Spend time with unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19 disease indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing.
- Refrain from wearing face coverings outdoors except when attending crowded outdoor events, such as live performances, parades, fairs, festivals, sports events, or other similar settings.
- Refrain from quarantine and testing following a known exposure if asymptomatic [2].
 - Following a known exposure at work, fully vaccinated workers do not need to quarantine if asymptomatic.
 - In the workplace, employers subject to the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards (ETS) must ensure that employees are following the current ETS face covering and testing requirements.

For now, fully vaccinated people should continue to:

- Take precautions in public including wearing a well-fitted mask indoors, and when attending crowded outdoor events, as described above.
 - Check CDPH guidance for face coverings for updates.
 - Follow CDPH's Guidance for Gatherings when gathering with people who are not vaccinated, groups with both vaccinated and unvaccinated people, and persons of unknown status. Maintain physical distancing and adhere to other prevention measures when visiting with unvaccinated people who are at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease or who have an unvaccinated household member who is at increased risk for severe COVID-19 disease.
- Get tested if experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- If fully vaccinated people test positive for SARS-CoV-2, they should follow CDPH and local health department guidance regarding isolation and/or exclusion from high risk settings.
 - For workplace settings, employers should follow the exclusion provisions of the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards.
- Follow CDC, local and state health department travel requirements and recommendations.

Refer to Addendum to Blueprint Activity & Business Tiers Chart – Tested and Fully Vaccinated Individuals and Sections for further industry and venue guidance related to tested negative and fully vaccinated individuals designated sections.

These recommendations apply to fully vaccinated people, and currently there is no duration limitation on these recommendations after individuals are fully vaccinated.

For additional information visit CDC's related Science Brief: Background Rationale and Evidence for Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People

[1] This guidance applies to COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized for use:

- By the US Food and Drug Administration, as listed at <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines>.
- By the World Health Organization, as listed at <https://extranet.who.int/pqweb/vaccines/covid-19-vaccines>

[2] EO N-84-20 (PDF) provides that recommendations of the California Department of Public Health related to quarantine of workers are incorporated into and supersedes the text of the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards . This guidance does not affect employers' obligation to comply with other provisions of the Emergency Temporary Standards.

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