

Labor Relations Branch
1600 Ninth Street, Room 440
Sacramento, California 95814
www.dsh.ca.gov



December 16, 2021

Sent via email only

Arthur Gonzales, CCSO Representative
California Correctional Supervisors Organization
1481 Ullrey Avenue
Escalon, CA 95320
ccso@ccsonet.org

RE: Department of State Hospital Updated Mask Requirement

Dear Mr. Gonzales:

This letter is to provide official notification to the California Correctional Supervisors Organization (CCSO), that the Department of State Hospitals (DSH) is effective immediately, implementing an updated mask requirement statewide based on California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidance.

With the emergence of the Omicron variant this holiday season, we are reminded of the need to help curb the spread of COVID-19 and contain new sources of infection. In response, the CDPH recently announced a new mask mandate. Beginning December 15, 2021, masks are [required to be worn](#) in all public indoor settings irrespective of vaccine status through January 15, 2022. DSH statewide policies and local hospital policies largely already required masks to be worn in indoor settings.

Based on CDPH guidance, wearing a mask is required in all DSH indoor settings, unless staff are actively eating and drinking, this includes employees working alone in their cubicles or other workspaces, when in break rooms and conference rooms. Employees who are working alone in an office with a door closed may remove their mask, but the mask must be donned when anyone enters the closed-door office.

These new measures bring an added layer of mitigation as the Omicron variant is being detected in California. This variant has been shown to spread more easily than the original SARS-CoV-2 and the Delta variant. This universal masking mandate will not only decrease the rate of infections but can also slow community transmission.

Please also refer to these [FAQs](#), as well as the [new travel advisory](#) and updated requirements for attending [mega events](#).

If you have any questions or concerns about this emergency action and or would like to discuss further, please contact Janette Gabbrielli, at Janette.Gabbrielli@dsh.ca.gov.

“Caring Today for a Safe and Healthy Tomorrow”

Sincerely,

Janette Gabbrielli

Janette Gabbrielli
Labor Relations Specialist
Labor Relations Branch

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