



COVID-19 BUSINESS SAFETY PROFESSIONAL PERFORMERS



5-20-22 Significant changes include:

- Updated the workplace exclusions and return to work sections to align with Cal-OSHA COVID-19 [Emergency Temporary Standards](#).
- Recommendation that performers that unmask indoors be tested 1-2 times weekly, regardless of vaccination status.
- The unmasking protocol for asymptomatic exposed performers within 10 days of exposure no longer varies by vaccination status. The exposed performer must have a negative test on the day of, and prior to, any unmasked performances.

Los Angeles County is utilizing both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) COVID-19 [Community Levels](#) and the California [SMARTER Plan](#) to guide the realignment of our local public health response to focus on reducing medically significant illness and minimizing strain on the healthcare system. See the Los Angeles County [Post-Surge Dashboard](#). The core community prevention strategies are indoor masking, testing, vaccine verification, and ventilation.

Below is a summary of requirements and recommendations for professional performers and businesses or productions that employ performers to ensure ongoing safety at their performance venues and worksites. While many of the guidelines below are recommendations and should be followed to reduce the risk of exposure, requirements are indicated by the word “must” or “required.” Please note that these guidelines are subject to change as additional pertinent information arises.

Please be sure to read and follow the general [Best Practices for Businesses and Employers](#). This document is intended to supplement the general guidance.

Preventive Measures: Reducing the Risk of Exposure

Masking

- **Masks are strongly recommended indoors:** Masks are strongly recommended, but not required, in most indoor public settings. COVID-19 spreads when an infected person, who may or may not have symptoms, breathes out droplets and very small particles that contain the virus. These droplets and particles can then be breathed in by other people or land on their eyes, noses, or mouth. People who are infected can spread the infection to others before they develop symptoms. Masks protect others by containing the droplets and particles you breathe, cough, or sneeze out. And, if the mask fits closely to your face and filters well, it protects you from particles spread by others.





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- The purpose of *strongly* recommending continued indoor masking for all, regardless of vaccination status, is to prevent transmission of the virus and particularly to persons with prolonged, cumulative exposures (e.g., workers) and to persons with higher risk for serious illness from a COVID-19 infection. Although not required, businesses may choose to continue to require universal indoor masking to protect workers and customers/visitors.
- Employers are encouraged to continue to require universal indoor masking for all, especially when community transmission is significantly elevated. Note that the LA County Health Officer may re-impose an indoor masking requirement when needed.
- Please note that **masks are required** for people who are within 10 days of the onset of a COVID-19 infection and for people who have had a close contact exposure to COVID-19 in the previous 10 days (see *Requirements After Diagnosis of COVID-19 or Close Contact to COVID-19 Case* below for details).
- **Employees must be provided masks and respirators at no cost to the employee.**
 - If an employer decides to allow unmasking indoors in the workplace, they must make available and offer well-fitting masks and respirators for voluntary use to employees who work indoors and have close contact with others or in vehicles with more than one person. The employee must be given the opportunity to choose medical masks or respirators (e.g., N95, KN95, KF94) depending on the employee's preference.
 - Employers that choose to require universal indoor masking at their worksite must provide well-fitted medical masks to all employees.
 - Upon request, employers must provide all employees who work indoors or in vehicles with more than one person with the correct-size N95 respirator for voluntary use along with [basic instructions](#) on how to use the N95 respirator. Employees may request respirators for voluntary use *regardless of their vaccination status*.
 - Respirators must be replaced if they lose their tight fit or get damaged, deformed, dirty, wet, or difficult to breathe through.
 - For more information about free and low-cost PPE for businesses and organizations, visit: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/docs/FreeAndLowCostPPE.pdf>. See [Wear a Mask and Know Your Rights](#) for information for employees.





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Testing

It is recommended that performers that unmask indoors during performances be tested 1-2 times a week. More frequent testing is more protective.

Testing is not recommended for performers that tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 90 days, as long as they remain asymptomatic.

Vaccination

COVID-19 vaccines are [safe and effective](#) and are the best way to prevent COVID-19 outbreaks in the workplace. Encourage performers to [stay up to date](#) with their COVID-19 vaccines to reduce their risk of getting sick or severely ill with COVID-19. It is recommended that employers assess and record the vaccination status of all employees, including performers.

Persons whose vaccination status is unknown to the employer should be considered unvaccinated.

Ventilation and Use of Outdoor Locations

Locate as much of the production and operations outdoors, if possible. If indoors, utilize the outdoors during parts of production as much as possible.

Ventilation is crucial for indoor events. Refer to Cal-OSHA [COVID-19 ETS FAQs-Ventilation](#).

- Maximize ventilation following [State Interim Guidance for Ventilation](#). This may include:
 - Adjusting HVAC systems to achieve 2.5-6 Air Changes Per Hour (ACH). Lower values can be used for well-ventilated rooms; ACHs of 4-6 should be used for rooms with marginal ventilation.
 - Using MERV 13 filters wherever possible.
 - Installing portable high efficiency air cleaners in rooms with less ventilation (for example, some dressing rooms).
 - When weather and working conditions allow, and if it is safe to do so, increase fresh outdoor air by opening windows and doors.

Distancing

Currently, there are no COVID-related indoor occupancy limits or required physical distancing measures. Wherever possible, take steps to reduce crowding indoors. Encourage physical distancing, if feasible, especially in dressing rooms and backstage. Reduce or disallow backstage visitors to minimize crowding.





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Requirements After Diagnosis of COVID-19 or Close Contact to a COVID-19 Case

Like other workers, performers diagnosed with COVID-19 or with close contact exposures to COVID-19 must adhere to the [isolation and quarantine](#) rules of the LA County Health Officer Order. The requirements for work exclusions and returning to work are outlined in Cal-OSHA [COVID-19 ETS \(FAQs\)](#) and summarized in DPH [Responding to COVID in the Workplace](#).

- **Masking for 10 days after COVID-19 diagnosis or exposure.** All employees returning to the workplace within 10 days of infection or exposure are *required* to wear highly protective masks indoors around others. Because professional performers' work tasks typically require mask removal, the following modifications to the requirements for return-to-work and exceptions to the masking requirements may be used for professional performers returning to work after infection with COVID-19 or after exposure:
 - **Performers with a COVID-19 diagnosis or positive test within the past 10 days,** regardless of vaccination status, previous infection, or lack of symptoms must be excluded from the workplace. If permitted by their employer, they may return to the workplace after Day 5 only if they have met all the specified criteria.¹ They may unmask to perform², only if they are tested³ and the result is negative on the day of, and prior to, any unmasked performances until Day 11. They must continue to wear a highly protective mask when around others and not performing.
 - **Performers who were exposed to COVID-19 within past 10 days** may continue to work provided they: 1) remain asymptomatic, 2) wear a highly protective mask around others until Day 11, and 3) have a negative test³ within 3-5 days after their last close contact. They may unmask to perform, only if they are tested and the result is negative on the day of, and prior to, any unmasked performances until Day 11. They must continue to wear a highly protective mask when around others and not performing.
 - **Note:** Close contacts with a positive COVID-19 viral test within the prior 90 days do not need to be tested unless symptoms develop, but they do need to mask.
 - **The test result must be known by the employer before any unmasked performance work begins.**

1 Isolation can end and employee may return to the workplace after Day 5* ONLY if all of the following criteria are met:

- A COVID-19 viral test³ collected on Day 5 or later is negative, and
- No fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine, and
- Other symptoms are improving

2 Performers who have exited isolation after Day 5 and before Day 11 may only unmask when they are actively performing at indoor live or recorded settings or events such as music, acting, or singing and they have completed the required testing as described above.

3 The test must be a COVID-19 viral test such as an antigen or NAAT/PCR test. Antigen tests are recommended when testing any persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 90 days. Over-the-counter (OTC) tests can be used for return to work if meet certain conditions, see [Cal-OSHA testing FAQs](#).





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- **Additional precautions for 10 days after COVID-19 diagnosis or exposure:**
 - Performers should not engage in any intimate or high-exertion activities (e.g., kissing, sharing food/utensils, etc.) with others until Day 11:
 - Performers should maintain a distance of 6 feet from others when unmasked until Day 11.

