

## Frequently Asked Questions for COVID-19, Influenza, and other Viral Respiratory Illnesses for Healthcare Settings

( includes SNFs, LTAC; Health Care Personnel and Emergency Responders)

*Riverside University Health System – Public Health*

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### 1. What are the requirements for reporting COVID?

- Only hospitalized patients who test positive must be reported to Public Health.
- Follow California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidance for other required reporting.
  - [CDPH Influenza Guidance for LHDs](#)
- Clinical Laboratories must report positive lab results through the Electronic Lab Report (ELR) portal of California Reportable Disease Information Exchange (CALREDIE).
- Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) and Long-Term Acute Care facilities (LTAC) must report COVID to the California Department of Public Health.
  - [SNFs Reporting Guidelines](#)
  - \* SNF's and LTAC's must report COVID outbreaks to RUHS Public Health using the RUHS-PH COVID Contact Line List Form. For questions call: **RUHS Public Health 951-358-5107**

[AFL 25-28 Recommendations for Prevention and Control of COVID-19, Influenza, and Other Respiratory Viral Infections in California Skilled Nursing Facilities – 2025-26](#)

### 2. What is the Return-to-Work Criteria for Health care Personnel with or suspected COVID, Influenza, and other Viral Respiratory Infections?

- The COVID-19 Infection Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations (California Code of Regulations, Title 8, sections 3205 to 3205.3) ended February 3, 2025.
- There is no longer a specific set of regulatory requirements relating to COVID-19 prevention in the workplace. Employers will still be required to maintain a safe and healthful place of employment as required by Labor Code section 6400, and must establish, implement, and maintain an effective Injury and Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) as required by Title 8, California Code of Regulations, section 3203.
- If an employee identifies COVID-19 as a workplace hazard at their place of employment, then the employer must identify, evaluate, and correct any unsafe or unhealthy conditions, work practices, or work procedures that are associated with COVID-19.

### 3. What are Employer Requirements port CalOSHA COVID-19 Prevention Non-Emergency Regulations?

- Under new guidance, health care personnel with suspected or confirmed respiratory viral infection, regardless of whether testing is performed, should:
- Not return to work until at least 3 days have passed since symptoms onset (or as positive test, if asymptomatic), at least 24 hours have passed with no fever (without use of fever-reducing medicines), symptoms are improving and they feel well enough to return to work, with symptom onset being day 0 the first possible day to return to work would be day 4.
- Wear a facemask for at least 10 days after symptom onset or positive test in all patient care and common areas of the facility (if not already wearing a facemask as a part of universal source control masking).

- Perform frequent hand hygiene, especially before and after each encounter or contact with respiratory secretions.

**4. What are the requirements for reporting Influenza?**

- Hospitalized and fatal cases of Influenza (0-64 years of age) must be reported to Public Health.
- SNF's and LTAC's must report Influenza outbreaks (3 or more cases in a three-day period) to Public Health and CDPH.

**5. What action is required during outbreaks in SNF's and LTAC's**

- **COVID**
  - Response testing on day 1, 3, & 5.
  - All staff must wear fit-tested N-95 masks.
  - Post sign indicating there is a COVID outbreak.
  - Implement outbreak control measures.
- **Influenza**
  - Implement outbreak containment protocol
  - Notify family members
  - Other antiviral treatments based on MD order.
  - <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/treatment/antiviral-drugs.html>

**6. Does Riverside County Public Health have a mask mandate for influenza?**

- No, there is not a mask mandate for the HCP who decline Influenza Vaccination. Public Health recommends that everyone 6 months and over receive Influenza Vaccination.
- Each facility should follow their policy on the management of HCP who decline Influenza Vaccination.
- Refer to **CalOSHA ATD standard on required declination statement for HCP who decline recommended vaccines.**
  - [Cal/OSHA Regulation on Aerosol Transmissible Diseases](#)

*We thank you for your continued cooperation and commitment to keeping our communities safe.  
Together, we can ensure a healthy environment for all.*