



State of California—Health and Human
Services Agency
**California Department of
Public Health**



April 15, 2021

TO: All Californians

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

On April 2, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People. CDPH supports this guidance, which is summarized below. This guidance does not apply to healthcare settings or other workplace settings. Employers who fall under the scope of the Cal/OSHA COVID-19 Prevention Emergency Temporary Standards must remain in compliance with these Standards.

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).*

Key Points

Fully vaccinated people can:

- Spend time with other fully vaccinated people, including indoors, without wearing masks or physical distancing.
- 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 quarantine and testing following a known exposure if asymptomatic (outside the workplace setting).

For now, fully vaccinated people should continue to:

- Take precautions in public including wearing a well-fitted mask and physical distancing.
- Follow CDPH's Guidance for Gatherings when gathering with people who are not vaccinated or groups with both vaccinated and unvaccinated people.
- Wear masks, maintain physical distance, 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.
- Wear masks, maintain physical distance, and practice other prevention measures when visiting with unvaccinated people from multiple households.
- 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.
- 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 testing and vaccination only sections.

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

*This guidance applies to COVID-19 vaccines currently authorized for emergency use by the Food and Drug Administration: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson and Johnson [J&J]/ Janssen COVID-19 vaccines. Considerations for applying this guidance to vaccines that are not FDA-authorized include whether the vaccine product has received emergency approval from the World Health Organization or authorization from a national regulatory agency. As additional vaccines are approved this guidance will be updated.

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

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