



Mendocino County Public Health Department

Healthy People, Healthy Communities

Dr. Andrew Coren, County Health Officer



Press Release

Not for op-ed

Date: September 26, 2022

TO: MENDOCINO COUNTY NEWS MEDIA

FR: MENDOCINO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Advisory regarding new CDPH Orders from Health Officer Dr. Andy Coren

As the acute phase of the COVID pandemic hit our communities, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), followed by our Mendocino County Health Department, issued many orders meant to control the spread of the virus. These included closing businesses and schools, mandatory masking, and, for some, mandatory testing and vaccines. These orders were based on the best scientific evidence to protect our communities from loss of life and to protect our health care facilities from being too overwhelmed to care for those suffering from accidents and other diseases. Public Health orders that people had never seen in their lifetime were needed at that time to avert disaster.

We are now moving past that acute phase and although there is still a pandemic taking hundreds of lives each day in California, we have progressed to a point when Public Health can change our response to this threat. Instead of orders for everyone to rely on, it is better for us as a community to understand the threats and evidence-based responses, and act responsibly with changing circumstances. We have learned a great deal from living with COVID for over 2 years and we have developed a strong immunity due to vaccinations, boosters, and infections.

Consequently, CDPH has rescinded several orders. On September 17, 2022 **required routine COVID testing** for unvaccinated, partly vaccinated, and unboosted individuals ended in many contexts (except where specifically required by Federal requirements):

- 1) Health Care Workers in General and Psychiatric Hospitals, Intermediate Care, Adult Day Care Centers, Pediatric Day Health and Respite Centers, Ambulatory Surgery Centers, Chemical Dependency Recovery Hospitals, Residential Substance Use and Mental Health Treatment Facilities, Dialysis centers, Hospice facilities;
- 2) Adult Care Facilities and Direct Care Workers including all in-home health aids, IHSS, Hospice and Regional Center employees;
- 3) Workers in Shelters
- 4) School employees
- 5) Correctional Facilities
- 6) Additionally, visitors in health care facilities including Acute Hospitals, Skilled Nursing Facilities and Long-Term Care Settings will no longer require proof of recent negative covid test.

Note that:

- a) Skilled Nursing Facility employees must still test, based on Federal requirements of CMS

- b) Facilities should maintain testing capacity to be able to ramp up testing if there is an outbreak or if conditions change in the future; and
- c) Requirements for vaccines, masking, Isolating and quarantining are not changed at this time. Employers are still required to track and keep workers' vaccine and exemption records.
- d) Updates from CDC regarding timing of required vaccines and boosters should be followed.

The best place to get more information about change in State Public Health Orders is the [CDPH website](#). You can also get in touch with the Public Health Call Center with any questions at 707-472-2759.