



**THE STEPPING STONES GROUP**

Transforming Lives Together



Date: March 7, 2022  
To: SSG California Staff  
Subject: Updates to California Mask Mandate

Dear Colleagues,

[California Public Health Department \(CADPH\) issued recent updates regarding mask mandates:](#)

1. **Mandatory mask requirements**, regardless of vaccination status, are required in healthcare settings. If you work in a facility that is mostly administrative but is also a clinical setting (e.g., speech therapy), fully vaccinated staff may unmask when clients are not present.
2. **Masks are not required in non-healthcare** settings for fully vaccinated staff, visitors, and clients.
  1. **Fully vaccinated**
    1. Staff who have not provided SSG with their fully vaccinated status at may do so at the following link: [UAP Employee Vaccination or Covid Test Submission](#).
    2. Visitors and clients may self-attest their vaccination status; however, some local ordinances may require proof of vaccination (e.g., Los Angeles County requires customers and visitors to present proof of vaccination). Should it be impractical to check a client or visitor's vaccination status, on-site staff should wear a mask while the visitor or client is in the facility.
  2. **Non vaccinated staff** who wish to unmask onsite must provide a negative Covid-19 viral test every 3 days prior to entry.
3. **Exceptions** – Per the [Cal OSHA ETS](#), masks are not required when eating or drinking; six feet apart from others; outside; alone in a room.
4. **Exemptions** – The following **individuals** are exempt from wearing masks at all times:



**THE STEPPING STONES GROUP**

Transforming Lives Together



1. Persons younger than two years old. Very young children must not wear a mask because of the risk of suffocation.
2. Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a mask. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a mask could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a mask without assistance.
3. Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
4. Persons for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.
5. **Social distancing considerations**
  1. **Social distancing practices** shall be observed when required to wear a mask but unable to do so under the following conditions:
    1. Inability to wear a mask due to an exception as noted in item C.
    2. Inability to wear a mask due to an exemption as noted in item D.
  2. **Maximum room capacity** shall not exceed the number required to properly maintain social distancing.
6. **K-12 and Childcare settings** – for staff working in K-12 and childcare settings, the universal mask requirement will terminate on March 11, 2022. Please note that some school districts and childcare settings may continue to require masks.

Thank you,

**The Stepping Stones Group HR Department**