



CAL OSHA Approves Emergency COVID-19 Prevention Regulation

The temporary standard will go into effect by the end of this month if approved by the Office of Administrative Law

On November 19, 2020 the seven-member body of the California Standards Board voted unanimously to pass a temporary emergency standard to address COVID-19 prevention in the workplace. This standard applies to most employees and places of employment with few exceptions and requires employers to have a written COVID-19 Prevention Plan that addresses the following:

- System for training workers on COVID-19 prevention, testing, symptoms, and exposure reporting without fear of retaliation
- Screening employees for symptoms and responding immediately to potential exposures with notifications and free testing
- Removal of COVID-19 exposed workers and COVID-19 positive workers from the workplace with measures to protect pay and benefits
 - ⇒ “COVID-19 exposure” means being within six feet of a COVID-19 case for any combination of 15 minutes or greater in 24 hours just before and for a specific time after a positive test or symptoms
- Specific requirements for infection prevention in employee-provided housing and transportation to and from work
 - ⇒ For example, vehicle passengers must be separated by at least three feet in all directions
- Requirements for testing and notifying public health departments of workplace outbreaks (three or more cases in a workplace in a 14-day period) and major outbreaks (20 or more cases within a 30-day period)
- Procedures to ensure workers stay at least six feet apart from other people if possible
- Procedures to ensure workers are provided face coverings and wear them

For more information on the standard please click on the following link: <https://www.dir.ca.gov/oshsb/documents/> or contact your safety specialist.

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