



## A Message from Julius Cox

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PG&E Team,

In light of recent announcements by the government of California, PG&E is aligning its requirements with this new guidance for face coverings effective today, March 4. This note summarizes what prompted this change, what the new standard allows, and the steps we all must continue to follow to create a safe environment for all.

### **Summary of Recent News, Change to Our Face Covering Standard**

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has lifted its requirement for unvaccinated people to wear face coverings in most indoor public spaces. Additionally, on Feb. 28, Governor Newsom suspended Cal/OSHA's requirement for unvaccinated persons to wear face coverings at work.

As such, effective March 4, coworkers are no longer required to wear face coverings indoors or outdoors, except in specific circumstances listed below. This applies to both vaccinated and unvaccinated coworkers.

### **Exceptions to New Face Covering Standard**

Despite the updated masking standard, there are still a few specific circumstances where face coverings remain required by Cal/OSHA or PG&E policy. These include:

- **Shared Vehicles:** Unless the driver and all passengers are fully vaccinated, coworkers must still wear masks when riding together in company vehicles. Contractors riding with PG&E coworkers in PG&E vehicles must similarly mask up; all other times, contractors should follow their employers' guidelines/rules.
- **Isolation and Quarantine:** Coworkers who have returned to work early from isolation or quarantine based on a negative COVID test must still temporarily wear face coverings in the workplace. The HR Help Line will advise these coworkers how long they must continue to mask up. Contractors should follow the guidance provided by their employer.
- **Outbreak Locations:** Coworkers and contractors at facilities where an OSHA outbreak has been declared must wear a face covering, regardless of vaccination status. Coworkers and contractors (via their employers) at outbreak facilities will receive email messages during the outbreak period advising them of this and other requirements.
- **At Customer Request:** Wherever a customer requires or requests, coworkers and contractors entering a customer's property must continue to wear face coverings.

- **High-risk Settings:** Coworkers and contractors who are performing work in [high-risk indoor settings, as defined by the CDPH](#), must wear a face covering. Leaders will inform coworkers and contract workers when these requirements apply.
- **County Health Orders with Stricter Requirements:** Currently only Mendocino County is still operating under the previous, more stringent face covering requirements. Therefore, if you are working in Mendocino County, you must continue to wear a face covering indoors, regardless of your vaccination status, unless you are working alone in a closed room. We'll continue to monitor and keep you apprised of any changes. As a reminder, PG&E is bound to follow any/all local regulations if they are more stringent than statewide orders.

### **Daily Health Screen Still Required**

The announcements by the Governor's office and CDPH do not change the requirement that all coworkers who work outside of the home must still perform a daily health check via LiveSafe. Contractors must continue to follow their employers' processes for performing and recording their daily health check.

### **Additional Thoughts About Face Coverings**

The CDPH still *strongly encourages* everyone to wear face coverings indoors when in the presence of others. Coworkers who feel more comfortable wearing a mask for their protection are encouraged to do so. In support of this, PG&E will continue to provide face coverings, including N-95s, for all coworkers who wish to use them.

We are grateful to have reached a point where face covering requirements can be relaxed; however, we should all continue to exercise caution and vigilance in both our professional and personal lives. We've seen case rates rise, fall and rise again multiple times over the past two years. The standards we follow should be our floor—not our ceiling—when it comes to protecting ourselves and others from COVID-19.

Finally, please remember that these regulations, and our standards that follow them, may continue to change depending on many factors. Let's continue to exercise our virtue of being nimble and stay informed of the most recent developments via our communications channels and [the COVID-19 website](#).

Stay safe,

Julius