

June 10, 2021

ALERT!

Cal/OSHA Votes to Maintain Original Emergency COVID Regulation...for Now

After two meetings in six days deliberating revisions to bring the Cal/OSHA COVID Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) originally implemented November 2020 in line with updated Centers for Disease Control ([CDC](#)) and California Dept. of Public Health ([CDPH guidance](#)) as well as California's anticipated June 15 reopening, the end result was that nothing changed.

The COVID standard that has been in effect since November 30, 2020 remains in effect...for now.

The relaxing of masking, social distancing, partition, and quarantining requirements for California on June 15 won't apply to businesses. The Cal/OSHA Standards Board is scheduled to vote on a new set of revisions June 17.

The soonest the new revisions can become effective following the June 17 vote is June 28. So, for the time being, workplaces must continue to adhere to the existing [COVID ETS](#).

MCAC was part of a coalition spearheaded by the California Chamber of Commerce calling for changes to the standard to align with the Governor Newsom's June 15th reopening and the CDC recommendations. See coalition letter [here](#).

All of this, ultimate, inaction resulted despite high drama and flip-flopping votes by the Standards Board after approximately 9 hours, nearly 800 participants, and over 100 people testifying on the proposed revisions at the first meeting on June 3 followed by roughly 4 hours at a June 9 special session.

Highlights of the proposed revisions that were withdrawn by the Board (these items are ***not*** in effect):

- No masks for fully vaccinated employees indoors if all employees are vaccinated.
- No testing or quarantining after close contact for fully vaccinated employees.
- No face coverings outdoors for asymptomatic vaccinated or unvaccinated employees except for "mega events" with over 10,000 people.
- The most controversial part of the revisions required employers to provide respirators (N95s) to unvaccinated employees for voluntary use.

We expect the next round of revisions to be available Friday, June 11 for review in advance of the June 17 vote.

Stay tuned! We will continue to follow and report on developments.

[Cal/OSHA News Release](#)

[Cal/OSHA Emergency COVID-19 Regulation](#)

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