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California Department of Public Health Updates COVID-19 Guidance

On March 3, 2023, the California Department of Public Health published a new State Public Health Officer [Order](#) regarding COVID-19 disease control and prevention. The new order updates the previous October 14, 2022 order by revising requirements on masking, vaccination, and isolation. The most pertinent update for non-health care employers is a change in the infectious period / isolation procedure.

Infectious Period / Isolation – Previously, an infectious period for a symptomatic infected person is defined as 2 days before the infected person had symptoms through day 10 after symptoms first appeared, or days 5-10 if testing negative on day 5 or later, and 24 hours have passed with no fever without the use of fever-reducing medications, and symptoms have improved. For asymptomatic infected person, infectious period is defined as 2-10 after a positive test, or days 5-10 if testing negative on day 5 or later.

Beginning March 13, 2023, a symptomatic person who is COVID-19 positive may end isolation after 5 days if they feel well, have improving symptoms and are fever-free for 24 hours. A negative test is no longer necessary. An asymptomatic person with a positive test may end isolation after 5 days of the positive test, also without needing a negative test.

What This Means for Employers:

Even though the COVID pandemic seems to be abating and Governor Newsom has ended the State's CPVID State of Emergency as of February 23, 2023, things continue to evolve. We will keep you up to date.

The goal of this article is to provide employers with current labor and employment law information. The contents should neither be interpreted as, nor construed as legal advice or opinion. The reader should consult with Barsamian & Moody at (559) 248-2360 for individual responses to questions or concerns regarding any given situation.