



Governor Newsom Announces New Actions to Protect Californians from COVID-19

- **Booster requirement for health care workers will mitigate potential hospital staffing shortages as Omicron spreads and protect Californians in vulnerable settings**
 - **Keeping California's kids safer by expanding testing access and getting 1-2 rapid tests for every public school student as kids head back to school**
 - **Increasing testing hours for state-operated sites to expand capacity**
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Governor Newsom has led the nation's fight against COVID-19, implementing the most robust vaccination and testing programs in the country. Under Governor Newsom's leadership, California has set the standard when it comes to vaccine and masking measures, including requiring that workers in health care settings be fully vaccinated, announcing that the COVID-19 vaccine will be added to the list of vaccinations required to attend school in-person when fully approved, requiring masking in schools, and implementing a standard that all school staff and all state workers either show proof of full vaccination or be tested. These decisive actions have resulted in California being labeled [the safest state to live in during COVID-19](#) and a [national leader in preventing school closures](#).

Now, to best protect Californians against the Omicron variant, the state is doubling down on boosters and testing – requiring that health care workers get boosted, and expanding access to testing for students and Californians across the state.

NEW ACTIONS TO EXPAND TESTING & ENCOURAGE BOOSTERS

1. **Requiring boosters for workers in health care and high-risk congregate settings.** In order to protect California's workers in health care and high-risk congregate settings, as well as the patients they serve, and ensure that the state's hospital surge capacity remains strong, all workers will be required to receive a booster by February 1, 2022, and be tested twice weekly in the interim if they are not boosted.
2. **Expanding testing access for students.** To keep California's kids safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our schools, California will provide 1-2 rapid tests for every K-12 public school student as kids head back to school from winter break.
3. **Expanding testing site hours.** To ensure every Californian has access to testing, the state will expand testing site hours for state-operated centers that have reached capacity.

CALIFORNIA'S NATION-LEADING ACTIONS & PREPARATIONS

California has been preparing for a surge. We were named the safest state in the country during COVID-19 because of swift and decisive action, and robust vaccination and testing efforts:

- **Leading the nation in vaccinations and boosters** — California has administered over 64 million vaccinations, 24 million more vaccinations than the next closest state, with over 87% of Californians aged 5+ having received at least one vaccine dose. Over 8.7 million boosters have been administered, with more age groups becoming eligible.
- **8,000 vaccination sites statewide, including over 3,000 school-based sites** — With roughly 8,000 vaccination sites statewide, including over 3,000 school-based sites, California is reaching as many people as possible regardless of age or geography.
- **Over 6,000 testing sites statewide, purchasing 12 million tests for schools and local communities** — The state has established 6,288 testing sites statewide, comprising 31% of the nation's testing sites. The state has already conducted 116 million tests to date. Since August, the state has purchased over 12 million over-the-counter tests:
 - 2 million kits have already been allocated to local communities and an additional 2 million were allocated this week.
 - 2 million kits were delivered to schools in early December for dissemination to students.
- **Health care staff to support hospitals, expand surge capacity** — Over 1,700 health care workers have already been deployed to support health care facilities and expand surge capacity, and an additional 500 are expected to arrive in the days ahead.
- **Partnering with trusted messengers** — Partnering with local groups to get hard to reach communities the information and services they need to stay safe from COVID-19:
 - A network of more than 150 faith based organizations and more than 108,000 tests made available at churches, and 6,200 CBOs that have helped on testing.
 - \$125 million going to over 700 community based organizations to connect Californians to critical resources.
- **Reaching diverse and multilingual communities** — Over 250 ethnic media partners statewide, that are providing in-language communications and outreach.
- **Robust supplies and PPE on hand for rapid deployment:**
 - 1.5 million cloth masks
 - 1,003 medical station beds
 - 3.9 million coveralls
 - 15.6 million face shields
 - 97.9 million exam gloves
 - 4 million surgical goggles
 - 52.3 million gowns
 - 125 million N95 respirators
 - 238 million surgical masks
 - 12.9 million hand sanitizers
 - 1.2 million sample collecting kits
 - 19 million swabs
 - 53.1 million wipes
 - 15,652 ventilators