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Department of Health Services

Chevon Kothari, Director

Divisions

Behavioral Health Services

Primary Health

Public Health


Departmental Administration

County of Sacramento

Office Memorandum

Date: January 11, 2022

To: All EMS Stakeholders

From: Hernando Garzon, MD 
Medical Director, Sacramento County EMS Agency

Subject: *Temporary Guideline for Testing and Return to Work*

SCEMSA supports the adoption of the new EMSA supported CDPH temporary guideline for testing and return to work specifically to be implemented for CRITICAL staffing shortages which can be ameliorated with the more relaxed testing strategy. As noted in the January 8, 2022 EMSA memo, "Under the updated guidance, health care workers who test positive for SARS-CoV-2 and are asymptomatic, may return to work immediately without isolation and without testing, and health care workers who have been exposed and are asymptomatic may return to work immediately without quarantine and without testing."

Please note: this no-testing return-to-work strategy increases the likelihood of transmission of COVID by asymptomatic workers who may be COVID+ and should be reserved for critical staffing shortages only.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AUTHORITY

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January 8, 2022

TO: Local Emergency Medical Services Agencies Administrators
Medical Directors for Local Emergency Medical Services Agencies

FROM: Elizabeth Basnett
Acting Director

Subject: Quarantine and Isolation for Emergency Medical Services Personnel

With the increasing number of COVID-19 cases from the Omicron variant, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) today issued an updated All Facilities Letter (AFL 21-08.7), which provides a temporary blanket waiver from January 8, 2022 through February 1, 2022 from the return-to-work criteria for health care workers.

Under the updated guidance, health care workers who test positive for SARS-CoV-2 and are asymptomatic, may return to work immediately without isolation and without testing, and health care workers who have been exposed and are asymptomatic may return to work immediately without quarantine and without testing. These HCPs must wear an N95 respirator for source control. Facilities implementing this change must have made every attempt to bring in additional registry or contract staff and must have considered modifications to non-essential procedures.

CDPH isolation and quarantine guidance [\[link\]](#) specifies that emergency medical services personnel can operate under the guidance outlined in AFL 21-08.7 [\[link\]](#).

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