Morgan Lewis

# NAVIGATING THE NEXT

Biweekly Webinar Series: Returning to Work in California: Highlights of Major State and Local Orders

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# **California's Tier System**

County risk level	New cases	Positive tests
WIDESPREAD  Many non-essential indoor business operations are closed	More than 7 Daily new cases (per 100k)	More than 8%  Positive tests
SUBSTANTIAL  Some non-essential indoor business operations are closed	<b>4-7</b> Daily new cases (per 100k)	<b>5 – 8%</b> Positive tests
MODERATE  Some indoor business operations are open with modifications	<b>1 – 3.9</b> Daily new cases (per 100k)	<b>2 – 4.9%</b> Positive tests
MINIMAL  Most indoor business operations are open with modifications	Less than 1 Daily new cases (per 100k)	Less than 2% Positive tests

## **California's Tier System**



#### **Red Tier:**

- San Francisco 2/23
- Santa Clara 3/2
- Los Angeles 3/15
- Ventura 3/16
- Santa Barbara 3/17
- Riverside 3/17
- San Bernardino 3/14

#### **Orange Tier:**

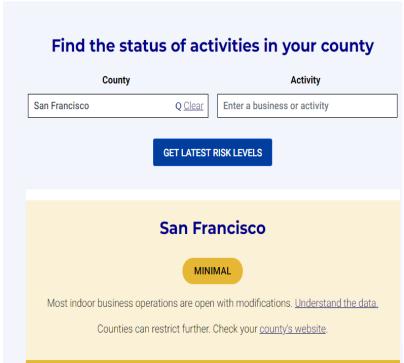
San Mateo – 3/16

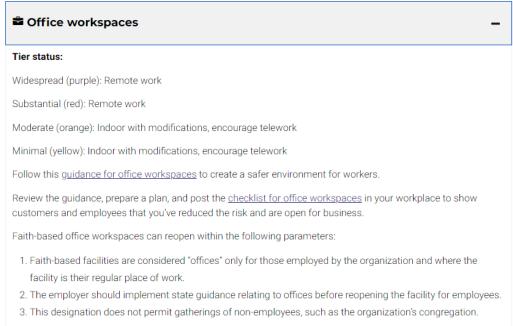
## **California's Tier System – Permissible Activity**

SECTORS	Tier 1 Widespread (Case Rate >7 and Test Positivity >8%)	Tier 2 Substantial (Case Rate 4-7 and Test Positivity 5-8%)	Tier 3 Moderate (Case Rate 1-3.9 and Test Positivity 2-4.9%)	Tier 4 Minimal (Case Rate <1 and Test Positivity <2%)
Post 2 million administered in first Healthy Places Index quartile	CR >10	CR 4-10	CR 1-3.9	CR <1
Post 4 million administered in first Healthy Places Index quartile	CR >10	CR 6-10	CR 2-5.9	CR <2
Bars (where no meal provided; follow restaurant guidance where meal is provided)	Closed	Closed	Open outdoors with modifications	Effective March 13, 2021: Open indoors with modifications • Max 25% capacity indoors, or 100 people, whichever is fewer
Family Entertainment Centers	Outdoor only with modifications e.g. • Kart Racing • Mini Golf • Batting Cages	Outdoor only with modifications e.g. • Kart Racing • Mini Golf • Batting Cages	Open indoors for naturally distanced activities with modifications  Max 25% capacity  Bowling Alleys	Open indoors for activities with increased risk of proximity and mixing with modifications  Max 50% capacity  Arcade Games  Ice and roller skating  Indoor playgrounds
Cardrooms, Satellite Wagering	Outdoor only with modifications	Outdoor only with modifications	Open indoors with modifications • Max 25% capacity	Open indoors with modifications • Max 50% capacity
Offices	Remote	Remote	Open indoors with modifications • Encourage telework	Open indoors with modifications • Encourage telework

• Link to Full Chart

# California's Tier System — Searching for Status of Activity in Each County







## California Hazard Pay — What Is It?

- Also known as "Hero Pay"
- Typically additional hourly pay for lower wage, frontline workers
- Several California cities and counties introduced emergency hazard pay ordinances, particularly for large grocery and drugstore workers
- The ordinances generally mandates employers to provide employees with additional pay, typically \$4-\$5 per hour, on top of their base pay

# California Hazard Pay — Key Requirements and Developments

- Employer additional requirements:
  - Prohibited from reducing employee hours and compensation
  - Must inform employees of their rights under the ordinance with a written notice
  - Must retain records that document compliance for a period of 2 years
- Expansion of hazard pay to other sectors (e.g., drugstores, general retail, restaurants, and agriculture)
- Some hazard pay ordinances include up to 4 hours of paid leave for employees to receive the vaccine.
- Lawsuits in Long Beach, Montebello, and Oakland
  - The District Court ruled in the City of Long Beach's favor and denied the California Grocers' Association's preliminary injunction motion.
  - The CGA has appealed the decision to the Ninth Circuit.

# California Hazard Pay — Who Has Adopted & Who is Considering It?

#### Cities with Hazard Pay:

- Berkeley
- Coachella
- Daly City
- Irvine
- Long Beach
- Los Angeles
- Montebello
- Oakland
- Pomona
- San Jose

- San Leandro
- San Mateo
- Santa Ana
- Santa Monica
- South San Francisco
- West Hollywood

#### Counties with Hazard Pay:

- Los Angeles (unincorporated areas)
- San Francisco
- Santa Clara (unincorporated areas)

#### Cities Considering it:

- Belmont
- Costa Mesa
- Fresno
- Redwood City
- San Carlos



## **Proposed COVID-Related Legislation**

- AB 1028 Telework Flexibility Act
- AB 1313 Business Immunity from Civil Liability
- AB 1074 Rehiring & Retention of Displaced Workers
- AB 654 Exposure Notifications
- AB 757 Request for Positive Test or Diagnosis Documentation
- AB 84 / SB 95 Supplemental Paid Sick Leave for Food Sector Workers
- AB 845 COVID-19 Presumption with Disability Retirement
- SB 606 Workplace OSHA Citations



#### **COVID-19 Vaccination and FEHA**

- An employer may require its employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19
- FEHA's protections against discrimination, harassment, and retaliation cover employees who decline to get vaccinated due to:
  - A disability or medical condition, or
  - A sincerely-held religious belief
- An employer that requires vaccination against COVID-19 in its workforce must reasonably accommodate employees with known disabilities
  - If an employee objects to vaccination on the basis of disability, the employer must engage in the interactive process with, and reasonably accommodate the employee

#### **COVID-19 Vaccination and FEHA**

- An employer that requires vaccination against COVID-19 in its workforce must reasonably accommodate an employee's sincerely-held religious beliefs and practices
- The employer should engage in an interactive process with the employee similar to the disability context
  - Accomodations may include:
    - Job restructuring;
    - Job reassignment; or
    - Modification of work practice.
- If the employer can show that an accommodation imposes an undue hardship, it may exclude the employee from the workplace

#### **COVID-19 Vaccination and FEHA**

- FEHA does not protect an employee who objects to being vaccinated against COVID-19 because they do not "trust that the vaccine is safe."
  - The employer is not obligated to reasonably accommodate the employee.
- If an employer requires its employee to receive a vaccination against COVID-19 administered by a third-party, the employer may request that the employee provide proof of vaccination.
  - Any record of employee or applicant vaccination must be maintained as a confidential medical record.
  - Proof of vaccination should be very limited.
    - It should only document whether the employee received the vaccine.
    - It should not include any medical information (i.e. pre-vaccination screening questions and answers which would likely elicit information about an employee's disability.)



## **FAQs Re Time Off for COVID-19 Vaccinations**

- Are employers required to compensate employees for the time spent obtaining a COVID-19 vaccination?
  - Yes, if the employer requires an employee to obtain a COVID-19 vaccination then it must pay for the time it takes for the vaccination, including travel time.
- If an employer does not mandate a COVID-19 vaccination, can an employee use regular paid sick leave for time spent being vaccinated?
  - Yes, regular paid sick leave may be used for preventive care, which includes medical testing and vaccines.
  - Employers should consider providing a flexible leave policy for those employees who may have post-vaccination side effects.
- Consider whether to provide additional benefits to employees who need time off for vaccine side effects.

## **Return to Work Resources for Employers**

View a list of the <u>return to work resources</u> that we have developed to support employers' efforts in safely returning to work.

Get more information on our <u>Return to Work</u> <u>– Stay in the Safe Zone</u> training program.

Access our workplace reopening checklist.

**Questions on Vaccines?** 



#### **RETURN TO WORK RESOURCES**

Category	Work Product	
Essential Business and/or Reopening Guidance	State and Local Orders, Ordinances, and Regulations Regarding Shelter in Place, Business Restrictions, and Business Reopening Chart  We can also provide weekly updates	
	We can also create customized charts of specific orders or just reopening orders. Examples:  Requirements Regarding Temperature Screens and Symptom Screens Requirements for PPE or Face Coverings	
Workplace Screening, Social Distancing, PPE, and Sanitization Policies and Procedures	Social Distancing Policy Template, Customization Guidance, and Face Covering Policy Template	
	Active Screening Protocol with Temperature/Symptom Screening Policy Template	
	FAQs on COVID-19 Molecular and Serology Testing	
	Infection Control Protocols for the Workplace	
	Policies and procedures can be customized for the company.	
Training	Webinar Training Program on Social Distancing and Safety Measures for Return to Work	
Unions	Labor Management Return To Work Memorandum of Understanding Template	

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# **Coronavirus COVID-19 Resources**

We have formed a multidisciplinary **Coronavirus/COVID-19 Task Force** to help guide clients through the broad scope of legal issues brought on by this public health challenge.

To help keep you on top of developments as they unfold, we also have launched a resource page on our website at <a href="https://www.morganlewis.com/topics/coronavirus-covid-19">www.morganlewis.com/topics/coronavirus-covid-19</a>

If you would like to receive a daily digest of all new updates to the page, please visit the resource page to <a href="mailto:subscribe">subscribe</a> using the purple "Stay Up to Date" button.



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