

**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](#) specifies that emergency medical services personnel can operate under the [guidance outlined in AFL 21-08.7](#).

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