

# Cal-OSHA ATD Standard

## It's the Law: Your Employer Must Protect you



### Cal/OSHA Aerosol Transmissible Diseases Standard (ATD Standard) requires airborne and contact precautions for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19:

- PPE for COVID-19 must include, at minimum, N95 respirators or higher, isolation gowns, eye protection, and gloves. Surgical and non-respirator face masks do not protect persons from airborne infectious diseases and cannot be relied upon for novel pathogens such as COVID-19.
- A Powered Air-Purifying Respirator (PAPR) with high efficiency particulate air filters must be worn during aerosol generating procedures on suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases.

### ATD Standard Requirements for COVID-19:

- Screening protocols to identify patients who may have COVID-19 infections.
- Open and continuous communication. Employers must continually inform Nurses and other healthcare workers about any potential exposure to suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case(s).
- Plans to ensure prompt isolation of patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infections in negative pressure isolation rooms.
- Protective PPE for Nurses and other health care workers providing care to patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infections including airborne and contact precautions. Employers must ensure the adequate supply of PPE necessary to reduce worker exposure to COVID-19 in routine operations, foreseeable emergencies, and surge events.
- The procedures requiring PAPR include endotracheal intubation, airway suction, tracheostomy, bronchoscopy, and sputum induction.
- Paid precautionary leave for a Nurse or other healthcare worker who is exposed to or infected with COVID-19 and employer must maintain wages and benefits for employee during the leave. The employer must notify the employee in a timely fashion in the event of an exposure to a suspected or confirmed patient(s).
- Exposure incident procedures. Employers must identify, evaluate, and investigate potential worker exposures including the cause and chain of employee/patient transmission. Medical follow-up services must be provided, free of charge, to all exposed employees.

See the full Aerosol Transmissible Diseases (ATD standard) at:  
<https://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/5199.html>

Cal/OSHA's guidance on COVID-19 is available at:  
<https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/Coronavirus-info.html>

#### Questions?

Call your Steward or Union Rep/Organizer  
visit <http://www.seiu121rn.org/our-hospitals-2/>

