



## **Updated Info July 2021 to Clarify about use of Masks and Respirators in the Workplace**

**July 8, 2021**

This message is being sent to all LACCD employees to help answer questions about masking and facial coverings in the workplace. LACCD, like any business in California, falls under the direction of Cal OSHA for workplace safety.

[Under Emergency Temporary Standards \(ETS\) approved by Cal OSHA on June 17, 2021:](#)

Upon request, [employers shall provide respirators](#) to all employees who are not fully vaccinated and who are working indoors or in vehicles with more than one person. Respirators are considered to be the N95 or KN95 style masks—not the pleated, surgical masks or flexible, washable facial coverings. This requirement applies only for employees who self-declare that they are not fully vaccinated and are working indoors with others at a college or District facility or who are in an [employer-provided vehicle](#) with others. Key points to remember:

- An employee must voluntarily self-declare they are not fully vaccinated and must request a respirator in order to get one.
- An employer can make other types of washable or disposable masks available to all employees and may opt to give N95 or KN95 masks to vaccinated employees if there is a sufficient supply of such masks available for unvaccinated employees.
- Any employee may decline to self-attest, but for the safety and protection of all, an employer must consider all persons who decline to self-attest as unvaccinated.

### **Some of you have asked why Cal OSHA is requiring respirators to be offered to unvaccinated persons and is this different from CDC and federal OSHA guidance?**

LACCD falls under the jurisdiction and authority of Cal OSHA for workplace safety. The decision by Cal OSHA was made in the best interests of protecting all workers in California against the spread COVID-19 or one of the new variants. During the past month, all of the different safety and health jurisdictions have worked to bring their recommendations, requirements and guidance into alignment. For example, the [CDC also states](#) that people who are not fully vaccinated should wear masks while at indoor public spaces.

### **How often must an employer provide an employee with a new respirator?**

[CDC recommends](#) limiting a person's use (on and off cycles) for a single N95 respirator to no more than five times per device.