



File Code: 6500

Date: October 14, 2021

Route To:

Subject: Guidance for COVID-19 Testing in California.

To: IBPA Agreement Holders.

Pursuant to the safeguards identified in [Executive Order 14042 Ensuring Adequate COVID Safety Protocols for Federal Contractors](#), please be advised the California Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (CWCG) issued guidance for COVID-19 testing for Federal Fire Incidents in the State of California. As a result, both Federal employees and incident contractor personnel should anticipate mandatory COVID testing at incident worksites.

Specifically, be advised all contractor personnel should anticipate mandatory testing at Federal Type 1 & 2 incidents in California regardless of vaccination status. Incidents requiring testing will include the requirement on the resource order and we encourage you to clarify the requirement before accepting an order. If testing is provided at the incident there will not be a charge to vendors.

Testing will be prioritized as: (1) test individuals upon arrival to an incident, (2) test individuals upon demobilization from an incident, (3) test individuals that are already assigned to an ongoing incident at frequencies recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Contractors may also take a COVID-19 diagnostic test prior to arriving at a California incident. California incidents will accept proof of negative COVID-19 test result received within 72 hours prior to check-in at incident in lieu of testing upon arrival.

In addition, separate guidance on the vaccine requirements pursuant to Executive Order 14042 is forthcoming for USDA Forest Service contracts and agreements.

We also encourage you to read the updated guidance on the Safer Federal Workforce site: [COVID-19 Workplace Safety: Guidance for Federal Contractors and Subcontractors](#). The health and well-being of all individuals is a top priority at USDA, and we appreciate your cooperation and continued commitment to the wildland fire mission.

This continues to be a fluid situation and any of these scenarios could change on short notice. Anticipate additional updates on how these requirements will be implemented at incident worksites, your expectations as a contractor for ensuring compliance with these requirements, and further clarifications as guidance is developed. General contract related questions can be submitted to SM.FS.vipr@usda.gov.

Questions regarding testing information can be sent to the Region 5 COVID-19 Emergency Response Team at SM.FS.R5Covid19@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

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