

CALIFORNIA WILDLAND FIRE COORDINATING GROUP



To: Incident Commanders in California

From: Jennifer Hinckley, Chair

Date: October 1, 2021

Subject: **Initial** Guidance on Framework for Mandatory COVID Testing on Federal Incidents in California

This is the **initial** guidance based on Framework for Mandatory COVID Testing on Federal Incidents in California. The California Wildland Fire Coordinating Group (CWCG) understands that this does not address all of the intention in the Framework, nor does it address all the COVID issues on the incidents.

The Framework for Mandatory COVID Testing on Federal Fire Incidents in California's (Framework) intention is to bridge from the President's Executive Orders signed on September 9, 2021 requiring COVID vaccinations for federal employees and federal contractors. The mandatory vaccination dates are November 22, 2021 for federal employees and December 8, 2021 for federal contractors.

The initial plan of action is to define rolls and responsibilities for the Federal Interagency COVID Response Team. The Federal Interagency COVID Response Team implementation of the Framework's intent will be limited based on some of the known issues including the following:

- Contracting for COVID Diagnostic Testing
- No known Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPA)
- Availability of continuous supply of COVID testing kits
- Local to incident California health department strength and depth for testing
- Data management standards, collection and storage
- Logistical support for individuals testing COVID positive
- Interagency COVID management on unified incidents

The intention of the Framework for Mandatory COVID Testing on Federal Fire Incidents in California only applies to federal employees and federal contractors. CAL FIRE and local government employees work on federal incidents through the California Master Cooperative Wildland Fire Management and Stafford Act Response Agreement (CFMA) and the Agreement for Local Government Fire and Emergency Assistance to the State of California and Federal Fire Agencies (California Fire Assistance Agreement (CFAA)).

The California Wildland Fire Coordinating Group continues to work on an interagency level to support the Incident Management Teams.

Attachments or Links

Link to Executive Order Requiring COVID Vaccination for Federal Employees

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/09/09/executive-order-on-requiring-coronavirus-disease-2019-vaccination-for-federal-employees/>

Attachment of Memo - Framework for Mandatory COVID Testing on Federal Fire Incidents in California, September 28, 2021

Points of Contact for COVID for Federal Agencies in California with responsibility for wildland fire.

US Forest Service

Bob Baird, Director, Fire and Aviation Pacific Southwest Region
202.906.0742
robert.baird@usda.gov

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Nathan Gogna, Regional Fire Management Officer
916.589.7039
nathan.gogna@bia.gov

Bureau of Land Management

Jim Beason, CA CSO Occupational Safety and Health Manager
916.978.4521 or 307.277.0329
jbeacson@blm.gov

National Park Service

Robin Wills, Regional Chief of Fire and Aviation
415.203.7162
robin_wills@nps.gov

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Jennifer Hinckley, Regional Fire Management Coordinator
279.202.7551
jennifer_hinckley@fws.gov