

## **Section 1: COVID-19 Poll Worker Safety**

COVID-19 has dramatically affected life in California - including significant impacts on elections. In March 2020, the State Public Health Officer and Director of the California Department of Public Health and Human Services issued an order requiring most Californians to stay at home to disrupt the spread of COVID-19 among the population.

While that stay-at-home order is no longer in effect, COVID-19 and associated variants remain a continuing threat, and the public health departments remain actively engaged in monitoring, mitigation, and response strategies. The presence of the COVID-19 virus will continue to be an important consideration in the future.

The current California Department of Health and Human Services COVID-19 guidance can be found at: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Guidance.aspx>.

Prior to conducting poll worker training, county elections officials should consult their local public health officials for up-to-date health and safety guidance. If state and/or local health guidance is issued, county elections officials should adhere to that guidance and shall train poll workers accordingly. It is essential that county elections officials take all possible steps to ensure the safety of workers and voters.