



# COUNTY OF YOLO

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## **Yolo County Health Order Requires COVID-19 Testing for Workers and Visitors at Skilled Nursing Facilities**

(Woodland, CA) – With skilled nursing facility (SNF) residents vulnerable to severe disease caused by the rapidly spreading Omicron variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, Yolo County Health Officer Dr. Aimee Sisson issued a [Health Order \(PDF\)](#) requiring individuals working in SNFs to be tested twice weekly for COVID-19 regardless of their vaccination status. Visitors to SNFs must also provide proof of a negative test for COVID-19 regardless of their vaccination status. The Order goes into effect on December 27, 2021, and will remain in effect through January 31, 2022, unless otherwise ordered by the Health Officer.

Of the 266 confirmed COVID-19 deaths in Yolo County residents to date, 27% (72) have occurred among residents of SNFs. In order to prevent additional deaths among SNF residents this winter, the Health Officer is requiring SNFs to put additional protections in place. While vaccinations, including booster doses, provide vital protection against serious COVID-19 disease, older adults with underlying conditions may still develop severe COVID-19 illness despite vaccination. Testing all individuals entering SNFs will reduce introduction of the virus into facilities. Because even fully vaccinated and boosted individuals can become infected with the Omicron variant, verifying staff and visitor vaccination status is not sufficient to protect vulnerable residents.

The local Health Order is being issued in addition to the updated [State Public Health Officer Order](#) announced on December 22 that requires SNF workers who are eligible to receive a COVID-19 booster dose to get a booster shot by February 1, 2022.

"We have a responsibility to protect vulnerable residents of skilled nursing facilities from COVID-19," said Dr. Sisson. "The highly transmissible Omicron variant will be difficult to stop once it is introduced into a skilled nursing facility, so we need to take additional steps to keep the virus out of these facilities in the first place. Requiring everybody entering a facility to have a recent negative test for COVID-19 is a critical step to keep residents safe."

Similar to State requirements for those attending Mega Events, visitors will be required to provide proof of a negative test within 1 day prior to the visit for antigen tests or within 2 days for molecular (including PCR) tests. Exceptions to the testing requirements will be made in the event of compassionate care visits, such as for a dying resident. For visitors, any of the following will be accepted as proof of a negative test:

- A printed document from the test provider or laboratory
- An electronic test result displayed on a phone or other device from the test provider or laboratory
- A test conducted in the presence of skilled nursing facility staff.

The Order will affect six Yolo County SNFs located in Davis, West Sacramento, and Woodland, including Alderson Convalescent Hospital, Cottonwood Post-Acute Rehab, Courtyard Healthcare Center, River Bend Nursing Center, University Retirement Community, and Woodland Skilled Nursing.

To find more COVID-19 information from Yolo County, visit [www.yolocounty.org/covid](http://www.yolocounty.org/covid). See the latest information on the [Omicron variant](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

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