



COVID-19 Health Equity Playbook for Communities

Strategies and Practices for an Equitable Reopening and Recovery



Equity Playbook Bulletin – February 2021

The [COVID-19 Health Equity Playbook for Communities](#) (Equity Playbook) supports local communities to achieve their Health Equity Measure as part of California's Blueprint for a Safer Economy and to build an equitable recovery. Through these Equity Playbook Bulletins, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Equity Technical Assistance Team continues to collect and share new equity resources, best practices and strategies.

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For more information about any of these resources, or to share suggestions for topics or resources to include in future Equity Playbook Bulletins, please contact our CDPH Equity Technical Assistance Team, Equity Playbook Coordinators: Katey.Rosenquist@cdph.ca.gov; Jessica.Lin@cdph.ca.gov; AnnaGabriela.Ycaza@cdph.ca.gov

Immediate COVID-19 Response Strategies

Testing

- [Community Based Testing Resources \(CDPH\)](#). CDPH has compiled information for local health jurisdictions and organizations interested in partnering to launch a community-based testing site. Includes an [Interest Form Survey](#) and [Playbook to Stand Up Community-Based Collection Sites](#) which offers a step-by-step guide on how to partner with the Valencia Branch Laboratory to ramp up capacity of COVID-19 testing such as: creating a test plan, setting up for test collection, conducting tests, shipping your specimens to the state, reporting and billing.
- [California COVID-19 Courier Network \(CCN\) Drop-Box Map](#). The State has set up a Statewide Courier Network to provide support in transporting specimens to the lab. The State of California Testing Task Force (TTF) created a map of available drop-boxes for the program and this service can be utilized by approved State Sponsored Community Based Sites and Local Health Departments.

Worker Protections

- [New COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards \(Cal/OSHA\)](#). On November 30, 2020, the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) implemented mandatory [COVID-19 Emergency Temporary Standards \(ETS\)](#). The ETS requires covered employers to establish and implement a COVID-19 Prevention Program to prevent disease transmission in the workplace and in specific types of housing and transportation. To bring a Cal/OSHA enforcement action under the ETS, local health jurisdictions can contact [Cal/OSHA Enforcement Unit Regional and District Offices](#). For non-enforcement services, contact [Cal/OSHA Consultation Services](#). For FAQs, a model ETS program and more, please visit the [ETS resources webpage](#).
- [Legal Information Fact Sheets \(Legal Aid at Work\)](#). Legal Aid at Work has over 100 fact sheets available on specific areas of law, mostly related to employment. These fact sheets are meant for individuals and cover a range of topics such as general employment, hiring and job loss, immigrant and language rights, discrimination, domestic violence and employment, leaves of absence, unemployment insurance, disability rights, and more including a [COVID-19 + My Job fact sheet](#).

Communications

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Communication \(BMSG\)](#). Berkeley Media Studies Group (BMSG) developed a communication resources containing strategies for local health jurisdictions and organizations interested in sharing general information related to COVID-19 vaccines. Includes quick tips and examples around messaging that helps with communicating effectively, centering equity, and reframing public health strategies that will foster trust and address community concern.

Crosscutting Strategies

Communications

- [COVID-19 Resources in Plain Language \(SCDD\)](#). The State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) in partnership with other state entities and stakeholders, is developing and posting COVID-19 resources written in plain language. These include [COVID Vaccine Information](#) and [Avoiding COVID Scams](#).
- [Neighborhood Vulnerability Indicators Dashboard](#). UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge and UCLA Brite Center for Science, Research and Policy developed neighborhood vulnerability indicators to help pinpoint which areas in California are most at risk of being infected with the COVID-19. Focusing on four indicators that combine pre-existing medical vulnerabilities with social and built-environment determinants factors for zip code tabulation areas (ZCTAs). Further information can be found in this [COVID-19 Vulnerability Indicators report](#).

Mental Health

- [California Hope Mental Health Support \(CalHOPE\)](#). California Hope (CalHOPE) offers resources and support related to mental health needs for communities during national disasters. These services include free outreach, crisis counseling, support services, community networking and support, connection to resources, COVID-19 Stress Relief Playbook, as well as County Toolkits that can be used for outreach to share about these resources with its communities.

Longer-term COVID-19 Response Strategies

Schools and Childcare

- [California Child Wellbeing Coalition e-Guide](#). CDPH Injury and Prevention Branch and California Department of Social Services, Office of Child Abuse Prevention's, Essentials for Childhood Initiative developed this e-Guide for those interested in collaborating with local coalitions, boards, and other organized bodies to achieve child wellbeing through policy, systems, and environmental change.
- [Continuing Learning: Playbook for Health School Communities](#). Kaiser Permanente created a playbook that aims to equip school and district leaders with evidence-informed guidance and operating procedures for keeping school communities mentally and physically safe as a new approach to learning. It provides a framework for strategies for COVID-19 prevention, discusses social drivers of health, support resources that Kaiser Permanente offers, funding strategies as well as information about staff and teacher well-being.

Cross-sectoral Collaboration and Health in All Policies (HiAP)

- [The Planner's Playbook: A Community-Centered Approach to Improving Health & Equity](#). ChangeLab Solutions created a playbook that offers guidance, resources, concrete steps, and examples for planners who wish to center equity in their planning practice so that their communities promote opportunity and prosperity for all. It is intended for planners, decision makers, and other practitioners who develop or influence their local government's plans and policies and thus shape the pattern, design, and function of their communities.
- [Equitable Enforcement to Achieve Health Equity](#). ChangeLab Solutions developed an introductory guide for policymakers and practitioners that centers equitable enforcement to achieving health equity. This guide offers guiding questions, strategies, and models of approaching enforcement provisions that avoid unintended negative consequences to communities. This guide can be applied to the COVID-19 enforcement response and additional ideas around this can be found in the [COVID-19 Response & Recovery blog series](#).
- [Guidance and Resources for COVID-19, Climate Change, and Health Equity](#). The CDPH Office of Health Equity's Climate Change and Health Equity Program developed a webpage which compiles state and national guidance for protecting communities and responding to climate-related impacts such as wildfires and wildfire smoke, and extreme heat, in the context of COVID-19.
- [Equity Lens Tool for Health Departments](#). Human Impact Partners and Big Cities Health Coalition developed this tool to provide a flexible, adaptable, and efficient resource that involves communities who are most affected by COVID-19 in decisions addressing the pandemic. It can be used by anyone working in a health department's COVID-19 response—particularly those leading or coordinating—to help ensure equity in a proposed decision.

Population-specific Response Strategies

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual (LGBTQIA): Data

- [Disproportionate Impacts of COVID-19 on LGBTQ Households in the U.S. \(MAP\)](#). Movement Advancement Project (MAP) created infographics of SOGI data that highlights the increased challenges faced by LGBTQ households compared to non-LGBTQ households. The data demonstrates impacts around: housing, employment, finances, and access to health care.

Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (NHPI): Data

- [NHPI COVID-19 Data Policy Lab Dashboard \(UCLA\)](#). The UCLA Fielding School of Public Health has developed a data dashboard on COVID-19 NHPI data for states where data is available, including California. The dashboard includes COVID-19 cases and death count data; case and death rates per 100,000; and state rankings for case and death rates among NHPI for COVID-19 pulling from sources such as [The COVID Tracking Project](#) by The Atlantic, Hawai'i COVID-19 Dashboard, and the [Census Bureau American Community Survey](#).

Congregate Living Settings

- [COVID-19 Congregate Care Playbook \(CCHS\)](#). The Contra Costa County COVID-19 Congregate Care Team, in collaboration with Contra Costa Health Services (CCHS) and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, produced this resource to support congregate living facilities in reducing mortality due to COVID-19 by distilling current guidance into clear, essential actions for leaders, staff, residents, and their families. The Playbook outlines current best practices for key strategies for COVID-19 management and infection control, facilitates proactive training and standardizes tactics for high-risk situations.