



May 23, 2022

RE: Changes to the COVID-19 Response in San Mateo County and SPOT Reporting

Dear Employers,

As long as COVID-19 continues to circulate in the community, businesses/organizations remain at risk for COVID-19 outbreaks. However, as the pandemic has evolved with the availability of an effective vaccine, better access to testing, and improving treatments, the COVID-19 response strategy and resource direction are shifting. As a result of this evolution, fewer resources are available for case investigations and contact tracing.

Over the past couple of years, we have done our best to support your business/organization, but we no longer have the staff to support you to the same degree related to COVID-19 as we have to date.

San Mateo County Health is making some changes that we'd like to bring to your attention. We are modifying our COVID-19 response as outlined below:

- Some COVID-19 dedicated resources, such as the hotel isolation program, COVID-19 swab team, and individual contact tracing will no longer be available.
- Available resources will be focused on prioritized response to outbreaks and case investigations in high-risk settings and promoting guidance and education related to management of COVID-19.
- Our guidance for COVID-19 exposures and outbreaks is entirely aligned with the California Department of Public Health's guidance. For specific guidance related to your business/organization, please refer to [California safety in the workplace](#) and [Cal/OSHA](#) resources.

Going forward, please remember to use [SPOT \[Shared Portal for Outbreak Tracking\]](#) to report COVID-19 outbreaks and exposures. SPOT is a new reporting system that will be used to report COVID-19 exposures and case details to San Mateo County. You should also send any questions or updates related to exposures or outbreaks that occur in your business/organization through this portal. We recommend you review the [SPOT Intake Form Overview](#), [User Guide](#), and [Demo for Liaisons video](#) to learn more about SPOT. Our hope is these changes will make it





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easier for you to report COVID-19 outbreaks and associated case details while still allowing you to find the guidance you need. **While we were previously accepting COVID-19 reports via phone and email, due to the volume of cases and changes in our COVID-19 staffing, these are no longer viable reporting methods and will not be accepted. SPOT will allow for an easier flow of information and help us respond to the most urgent needs more quickly. Reporting requirements and communication pathways for other communicable disease cases, exposures, and outbreaks and for all urgent situations have not changed.**

Promptly identifying COVID-19 cases and having a robust COVID-19 testing program remains crucial. To find testing resources, please visit the [CA COVID Testing Task Force](#) and [CDPH MyTurn find a testing site](#).

Thank you for partnering with us to protect your staff members and the San Mateo County community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Morrow MD". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Scott Morrow, MD, MPH, MBA
San Mateo County Health Officer