

## Overview of New Aerosol Transmittable Disease Regulations from Cal/OSHA

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- 1) **When are the new regulations effective?** August 5, 2009
- 2) **To whom are the standards applicable?**  
The [new regulation](#) is applicable to many organization who's employees might be exposed to a serious risk from Aerosol Transmissible Diseases. The regulations specifically name:
  - a) Skilled Nursing Facilities
  - b) Long Term Care Facilities and Hospices
- 3) **What is an Aerosol Transmissible Disease (ATD) or Aerosol Transmittable Pathogen (ATP)?**  
A disease or pathogen for which droplet or airborne precautions are required?  
(See appendix A of the regulations)
- 4) **What is a Referring Employer**
  - a) Refer clients/residents/patients with airborne infectious diseases (AirID) or are suspected of having AirID to other facilities.
  - b) Do not provide diagnosis, treatment, transport, housing, isolation or management to persons requiring airborne infection isolation (AII).
- 5) **What must referring employers do?**
  - a) Designate a qualified person as the administrator who will establish, implement and maintain effective written infection control procedures to control the risk of transmission of ATDs.
  - b) Identify in writing job categories in which employees have occupational exposure to ATDs.
  - c) Have a person on site at all time with full authority to act in the place of the administrator when the administrator is not on-site.
  - d) Written procedures must be available at worksite.
  - e) Written procedures must include procedures to disinfect work areas and objects that may become contaminated with ATPs and pose an infection risk to employees.
  - f) Source control procedures (controlling the source of ATPs) *Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette*
  - g) Screening and referral procedures
    - i) Transfer to occur within 5 hours of identification of case or suspected case, unless:
      - (1) Between 3:30pm and 7am – Must be Transferred out by 11am the next day.
      - (2) After contacting the local health officer it has been determined that there is no appropriate destination available.
    - ii) Seasonal Influenza does not require referral

- h) Communication Procedures
    - i) Employees (infection control information to those exposed)
    - ii) Other Employers
    - iii) Local health officer.
  - i) Procedures to reduce the risk of transmission. To the extent feasible provide:
    - i) Separate room or area
    - ii) Separate ventilation
    - iii) Employees use respiratory protection if infected person is not compliant with source control measure (cover your cough, etc). *Respiratory protection must be N95 respirator or better*
  - j) Must make CDPH recommended vaccines available to all healthcare workers with occupational exposure at a reasonable time and place for the employee
  - k) Procedures for employee exposure incidents
    - l) TB testing procedures
  - m) Must provide seasonal influenza vaccine to all employees with occupational exposure.
  - n) Training program.
  - o) Written ATD Exposure control plan that is specific to the workplace
  - p) Must review plan at least annually
  - q) Provide Engineering Control, Personal Protective Equipment where feasible
- 6) What must employers who admit and treat do?**
- a) Provide higher level engineering controls (Isolation Rooms)
  - b) Provide higher level of Personal Protection Equipment
  - c) Provide higher level of training
- 7) What are sources of further information and help?**
- a) Center for Disease Control (CDC)  
[www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/H1N1flu/](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/H1N1flu/)  
[www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/healthcare/](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/healthcare/)
  - b) Cal/Osha –  
See ATD Standards here  
[www.dir.ca.gov/oshsb/atd0.html](http://www.dir.ca.gov/oshsb/atd0.html)  
[www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/SwineFlu/SwineFlu.htm](http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/SwineFlu/SwineFlu.htm)
  - c) Fed/Osha  
[www.osha.gov/Publications/3323-10N-2006-English-07-17-2007.html](http://www.osha.gov/Publications/3323-10N-2006-English-07-17-2007.html)
  - d) Convalescent Employers Safety Association (CESA)  
[www.CESA-CAL.com](http://www.CESA-CAL.com)
  - e) State Compensation Insurance Fund Loss Control Services.  
[www.scif.com/safety/Index.html](http://www.scif.com/safety/Index.html)
  - f) California Department of Public Health  
[www.cdph.ca.gov](http://www.cdph.ca.gov)