



July 9, 2021

To: Senate and Assembly Staff

Fr: Speaker Rendon and Pro Tem Atkins

Re: COVID Information

We know you are concerned about the recent COVID-19 cases in the Capitol that you have heard about from Senate and Assembly Rules. We were, too, which is why we wanted to make sure that information got to you as quickly and transparently as possible, and it's why we have instituted updated precautions on testing, masks, and distancing in the Capitol.

We also want to share this additional information with you:

- As it stands, both houses have reached an 85% vaccination rate among members and staff—which is good, but not good enough.
- The testing results of legislative staff yesterday did not result in any new positive cases.
- Of the nine Assembly staff who have tested positive over the past 11 days, eight were from one office. Those staff are following the recommended quarantining guidelines from the California Department of Public Health.

We realize there is more to do, and that starts with getting vaccinated. Everyone in the Capitol Community who can receive the vaccine should, and as quickly as possible. We are rapidly approaching the end of session, and none of us want to see a replay of what COVID-19 exposure caused last year—even more, no one wants to see another member of the Capitol Community get sick.

We know this has been a long haul for you all. We know how much more difficult your lives and jobs have been during this pandemic. We're ready for normal, too. That's why we are vaccinated and that's why we are adhering to the updated safety precautions. We're getting there, but we have to get the numbers up and continue to keep ourselves and our loved ones safe. Please get vaccinated and encourage others to as well. In the meantime, please remember that the two of us would not put our own families at risk by being in an unsafe Capitol and neither would we risk the health and safety of anyone who works in our offices.

Along with Secretary Erika Contreras and Chief Administrative Officer Debra Gravert, we are continuing to address this situation, and will keep you informed throughout the process. If you have any questions for us, please let us know. We'll be back in the building Monday, and you can always ask us then.