

CDFW Staff COVID-19 Update #11

Monday, June 15, 2020 1:05 PM

This email is being sent to CDFW All.

This update covers the following topics:

- **CDFW Staff Volunteer to Become Contact Tracers**
- **Safe Return to Worksites**
- **Health and Wellness Tips**
- **More Information**

Background

CDFW has established an internal task force that will monitor and message out to staff information from various sources and develop recommended actions to protect CDFW staff and mission-critical functions. These periodic CDFW All Staff COVID-19 Updates are intended to provide you with summarized information that is helpful to you as a state employee. The safety and well-being of staff is the Department's priority and we appreciate everyone's patience and willingness to adapt during this rapidly evolving situation.

CDFW Staff Volunteer to Become Contact Tracers

In response to the global pandemic as public servants, the Department has been asked to provide staff to serve California's counties as contact tracers. We have answered that call with **119** staff committed to providing that service.

Natural Resources Agency Secretary Wade Crowfoot stated, "There is no higher calling in state government right now than serving as a contact tracer. Our ability to restart California's economy, get people back to work, and to return to the lives we knew just four months ago requires limiting the spread of the coronavirus. Contact tracers, by keeping people safe from infection and reducing contagion within and across communities, are essential to this effort. Their work will allow our families, communities, and state to return to our normal lives—and stay there. When the story is written about how California battled this unprecedented global crisis, contact tracers will be recognized among the heroes that helped us meet this moment."

Safe Return to Worksites

In preparation for re-opening public services in state facilities, the Department has received [guidance](#) from CalHR, CDPH and Cal-OSHA on how to do so safely. Consistent with these guidelines, the Department will largely continue to have staff telework where possible (the administration's goal is to maintain at least 75% of those staff already teleworking). However, in recognition that some critical services will require Department staff to begin returning to worksites in greater numbers, some facilities/worksites may begin to increase staff presence upon development and approval of a site-specific plan, which the Department is calling the Worksite COVID-19 Prevention Plan (WPP). The Department has developed a WPP template to assist with WPP development for each facility/worksite, and which addresses protective measures

such as use of face coverings and physical distancing strategies to ensure safety of staff and any others that come into the facility/worksites. The WPP template has been distributed to the Department's leadership team, who will be working with managers and supervisors to determine which facilities/worksites need plans and to support plan development. Staff will be hearing more soon from their management.

Health and Wellness Tips

While we are all managing through the disruption to both work and personal lives caused by the pandemic, we encourage you to take time every day to participate in something relaxing and restorative.

These Black nature lovers are busting stereotypes, one cool bird at a time

Article [here](#).

Hero Chronicles

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Executive Officer Angela Avery on [Capitol Public Radio Insight with Beth Ruyak](#) talking about what the state is doing to restore forests during COVID-19.

Take Care of your Mental Health

People with preexisting mental health conditions should continue with their treatment and be aware of new or worsening symptoms. Additional information can be found at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration ([SAMHSA Disaster Preparedness](#) external icon page).

Learn more about [taking care of your emotional health](#) during a stressful event like the COVID-19 outbreak.

More Information

- Information on the status of the COVID-19 crisis in California, as well as actions the state is taking in response can be found at <https://covid19.ca.gov/>. Local public health agencies also have information on COVID-19.
- If you have questions or concerns regarding COVID-19, please discuss with your supervisor. You may also direct HR-related questions to Covid-19LeaveSupport@wildlife.ca.gov or non-HR questions to COVID-19@wildlife.ca.gov.
- Past CDFW COVID-19 Updates and other information can be viewed on the intranet at <https://dfgintranet/portal/tabid/2921/Default.aspx> (you must either be logged into the intranet or connected to the VPN for the link to function).