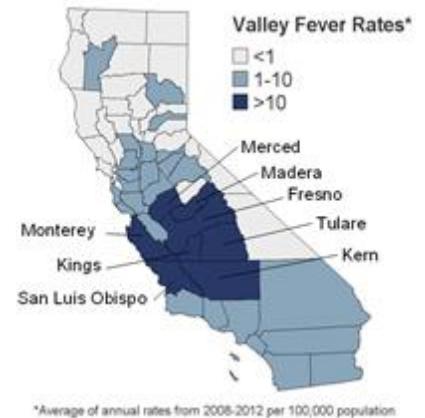


Valley Fever: Suggestions & Resources

In 2019, an Assembly Bill on Valley Fever passed. [AB-203](#) required an employer to provide effective Valley Fever Awareness Training by May 1, 2020, annually thereafter, as well as before an employee begins work that is reasonably anticipated to cause exposure to substantial dust disturbance.

Regions

Employers with employees working at worksites in counties where Valley Fever is highly endemic, including, but not limited to, the Counties of **Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Monterey, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Tulare, and Ventura**. Where work activities disturb the soil, including, but not limited to, digging, grading, or other earth moving operations, or vehicle operation on dirt roads, or high winds. Highly endemic means that the annual incidence rate of Valley Fever is greater than 20 cases per 100,000 persons per year.



Training Requirements

Valley Fever Awareness Training shall be provided annually, as well as before an employee begins work that is reasonably anticipated to cause exposure to substantial dust disturbance. Training documentation should be captured for record. Training shall include:

- (1) What Valley Fever is and how it is contracted.
- (2) High risk areas and types of work and environmental conditions during which the risk of contracting Valley Fever is highest.
- (3) Personal risk factors that may create a higher risk for some individuals, including pregnancy, diabetes, having a compromised immune system due to causes including, but not limited to, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), having received an organ transplant, or taking immunosuppressant drugs such as corticosteroids or tumor necrosis factor inhibitors.
- (4) Personal and environmental exposure prevention methods that may include, but are not limited to, water-based dust suppression, good hygiene when skin and clothing is soiled by dust, limiting contamination of drinks and food, working upwind from dusty areas when feasible, wet cleaning dusty equipment when feasible, and wearing a respirator when exposure to dust cannot be avoided.
- (5) The importance of early detection, diagnosis, and treatment to help prevent the disease from progressing. Early diagnosis and treatment are important because the effectiveness of medication is greatest in early stages of the disease.
- (6) Recognizing common signs and symptoms of Valley Fever, which include fatigue, cough, fever, shortness of breath, headache, muscle aches or joint pain, rash on upper body or legs, and symptoms similar to influenza that linger longer than usual.

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- (7) The importance of reporting symptoms to the employer and seeking medical attention from a physician and surgeon for appropriate diagnosis and treatment.
- (8) Common treatment and prognosis for Valley Fever.

In the event that a county, which has not been previously identified as being highly endemic, is determined to be highly endemic per the annual report published by the State Department of Public Health, this section shall not apply in the initial year of that county's listing in the report. However, it will begin to apply to employers in that county in the year subsequent to the department's publication that initially identified the county as being highly endemic.

(d) Training materials may include existing material on Valley Fever developed by a federal, state, or local agency, including, but not limited to, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the State Department of Public Health, or a local health department.

Respiratory Protection Awareness Training

As a best practice, we suggest adding in respiratory protection awareness training for employees to be included in the overall Valley Fever Awareness Training. It is important to understand the difference between voluntary, and non-voluntary respirator use. Any worker utilizing an N95 mask or greater for the use of respiratory protection to protect against Valley Fever must be in accordance with **§5144 Respiratory Protection**.

Training Resources

- [1 hour CDPH Valley Fever Awareness Training Video](#) – I suggest a sign in/quiz for acknowledgement
- [Valley Fever Awareness Training PowerPoint](#) – I can convert this into a PPT doc if needed
- [CDPH Valley Fever Toolbox Talk](#)
- [CDPH Valley Fever Brochure](#)
- [CDPH Valley Fever Fact Sheet](#)
- [Valley Fever Poster](#)

Cal OSHA

- [Information for Employers](#)