COVID-19 SAFE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

The COVID-19 Safe Certification Program was created for businesses as guidance for compliance with government mandated guidelines to open and operate a safe business.

The program is a top down approach to keeping employees and the public safe. It also creates a process that provides accountability and an audit check system ensuring solutions for the secure and sustained reopening of business.

The successful reopening of California requires implementation of a government-approved COVID-19 safe certification program that works in concert with sustainable and long-term initiatives such as mandatory rapid testing sites and recovery centers.

THE SAFE REOPENING OF CALIFORNIA REQUIRES:

1. STATE MANDATES AND COUNTY PROTOCOLS
    o Industry-specific protocols, equipment requirements and distancing requirements mandated by government and implemented by businesses
    o County Health Department Protocol process and detailed guidelines for every business
    o Electronic updates by businesses and submissions for audit purposes
    o Spot checks and enforcement by local health agencies

2. EMPLOYEE COVID SAFE TRAINING
    o Government mandated industry-specific training for managers and employees implemented through employer human resources departments or managers
    o Online training program for employees to understand protocols and guidelines when operating in business sectors. Programs can be customized per industries and would require an electronic certification document for each employee, manager, human resources staff asserting training requirements have been offered and met.

3. PERSONAL PROTECTION EQUIPMENT
    o Government mandated and implemented by businesses specific to their industry requirements.

4. INDOOR & OUTDOOR COVID SAFE OPERATIONS
    o Operations of including ordering procedures, queuing, use of restrooms, employee fulfillment processes, cleanliness protocols, UV lighting, patron purchasing processes, and more - Employer designs and develops according to local health department standards and requirements. Submitted for approval to public health, building and safety and code compliance for amendments and/or approval
    o Government staff approve ventilation systems, employee and customer circulation solutions, customer spacing mechanisms, protective barriers, product delivery protocols per government mandate and subject to review and approval for indoor operations
    o Private sector vendors provide services and solutions
    o Implemented by businesses per industry standards mandated by local health authorities

5. SIGNAGE AND INFORMATION
    o Appropriate signage for both employees and public for adequate social distancing and understanding of COVID-Safe rules and regulations. Government mandated and will require standard sizes, posting requirements and messages developed by State of California Health Department staff mandated and made available online for all businesses for free.
    o Signage must include requirements of customers for distancing and health-related safety of themselves and others.

6. EMPLOYEE COMMUNICATIONS & BUSINESS ACCOUNTABILITY
    o Employer creates process for communication with employees related to health, safety protocols and requirements, illness leave, at-risk employees and their family members, based on mandates by government.
    o Local health agency creates anonymous complaint system for reporting of potential health risking violations by business, customers, or employees with rapid investigation and resolution by local health authorities
    o Violators must recertify through online training process and pass inspection by government staff.
    o Customers not practicing safety protocols or distancing requirements will be asked to leave business and must comply.

7. GOVERNMENT FUNDED RECOVERY CENTERS
    o Because so many workers, especially low wage workers, live in crowded conditions, often sharing living space with extended family members and others to make ends meet, it is very difficult for these workers to self-quarantine for extended periods without infecting those they share living space with. These are also the people least likely to receive vaccine or effective treatment in the early stages of the disease. COVID-19. To address this issue effectively, government must intervene by creating, staffing and funding Recovery Centers.
    o Recovery Centers need to be isolated with a capacity for those who test positive but show minimal or no symptoms to quarantine safely away from those they share living space with.
    o Recovery Centers need to be equipped and prepared to serve COVID-19 positive individuals for the required 14-day quarantine period.

REQUIREMENTS OF GOVERNMENT:

1. Establishment of clear timeline for reopening per industry based in health risk assessments
2. Establishment of clear reopening protocols by industry and industry subsets
3. Establishment of infrastructure requirements per industry and industry subsets
4. Establishment of employee protocols for health safety of customers and employees
5. Establishment of inspection system by local public health and other departments
6. Creation of online training portal and online certification program for businesses and employees
7. Creation of downloadable signage for businesses to post for employees and customers where appropriate

8. Devise and implement a public awareness campaign to teach safety protocols and reinforce necessity of personal safety for all, as well as requirements for interaction in public places, and businesses.
9. Creation of and staffing for anonymous violation reporting system
10. Establishment of fast response team to address complaints and quickly re-establish healthful business environments
11. Pledge not to close businesses that are adhering to protocols and procedures per government guidelines.
12. Create and staff Recovery Centers for those who cannot quarantine at home.

REQUIREMENTS OF BUSINESS/INDUSTRY:

1. Create and maintain a safe environment for customers and employees following protocols and requirements established by government
2. Implement all required safety-related infrastructure, health evaluation and monitoring systems.
3. Post required signage.
4. Inform and educate employees about safe practices among themselves and with customers
5. Require managers and employees to self-certify through online government health safety portal
6. Regularly reinforce health and safety protocols with training and workshops
   Post all required signage
7. Inform employees about sick leave policies related to COVID-198.
8. Inform employees about anonymous reporting system for violations and non-retaliation policies
9. Close to customers if an employee tests positive for COVID-19 or exhibits symptoms. Thoroughly cleanse the business and require testing of all employees who came into contact with infected employee. Do not allow these employees to return to work until they have either a. tested negative for COVID-19 or b. quarantined for 14 days. If unexposed employees are not available, remain closed until all employees potentially exposed have been tested or quarantined for the required amount of time.