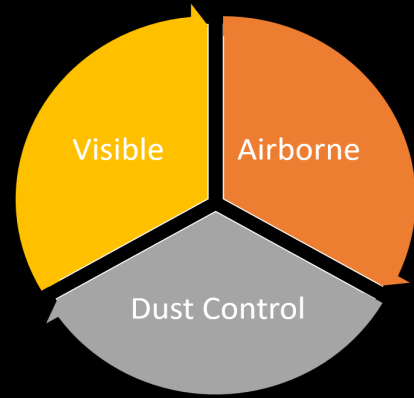




SPLASH ALERT



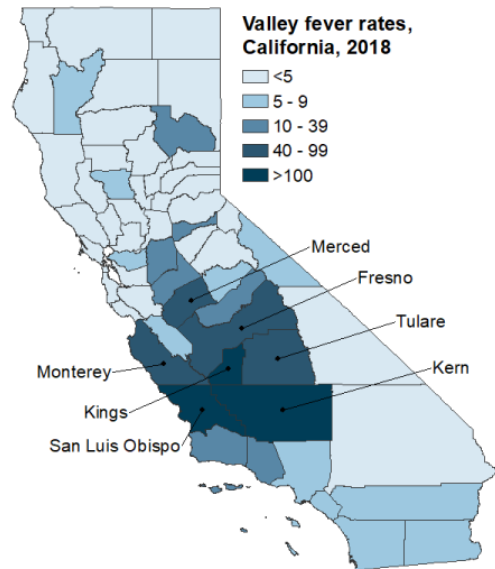
WORK RELATED VALLEY FEVER PROTECTION STANDARD

Valley fever (also called Coccidioidomycosis or “cocci”) is an infectious disease caused by the Coccidioides fungus that lives in the top 2 to 12 inches of soil and dirt in certain areas of California and the southwestern United States. When soil is disturbed by activities such as digging, driving, or high winds, fungal spores can become airborne and can potentially be inhaled by workers.

Since 2017, Cal/OSHA’s [Protection from Valley Fever](#) webpage provided employers with guidance on protecting workers from Valley Fever. In 2019, [Assembly Bill 203](#), *Occupational Safety and Health: Valley Fever* was introduced and effective January 1, 2020. Employers located or working in highly endemic counties must develop and train workers in its Valley Fever Exposure Control Plan. A current list of highly endemic counties is Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, Monterey, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Tulare, and Ventura.

Information to assist with developing a Valley Fever Exposure Control Plan can be found on Cal/OSHA’s [webpage](#) under “*How Can Valley Fever be Prevented.*”

Workplace training must be completed prior to exposure and no later than May 1, 2020. Annual training is required thereafter. AB 203 describes training materials that may include existing materials developed by federal, state, or local agencies; including but not limited to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and the California Department of Public Health.



Rates of reported Valley fever cases per 100,000 population. Darkest colored counties had the highest rates of Valley fever.

RESOURCES

- California Department of Public Health Valley Fever [webpage](#)
- California Department Public Health and California Department of Industrial Relations: Preventing Work-Related Coccidioidomycosis (Valley Fever) [Training Publication & Factsheet](#)
- Los Angeles County Coccidioidomycosis (Valley Fever) Management Plan: Guidelines for Employers ([PDF](#))
- Los Angeles County Public Health Valley Fever [webpage](#)

Photo source: (above)
<https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/valleyfever/prevention.html>