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SPECIAL SECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 14, 2022,

There are early signs that the 2022-23 flu season in the U.S. is severe. Flu hospitalizations are higher at this point in the season than they have been in a decade. Flu is one of several respiratory illnesses circulating, including respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and COVID-19. Activity of this triple treat illnesses are expected to increase in the coming months. Please see [Health Advisory: Early RSV and Seasonal Influenza Activity](#) for more information and resources.

The annual flu vaccination continues to be the best defense against flu infection. Persons in care in adult and senior care (ASC) licensed facilities are at an increased risk for severe disease, hospitalization and death from infections caused by respiratory diseases. Facilities should ensure residents are given the opportunity to be vaccinated for the flu. **It's safe and convenient to get the flu shot and COVID-19 vaccine or booster the same**

day, if eligible for both. Updated COVID-19 bivalent boosters are now available to provide increased protection against Omicron variants. If you would like assistance obtaining **on-site bivalent boosters and flu vaccines** for residents in your facilities who are immobile, cognitively impaired, or who have behavioral challenges, **please email COVID-HealthcareStatus@sdcounty.ca.gov and include your facility name and the best phone number at which you can be reached.**

[Antiviral Treatment of Influenza](#) is recommended as soon as possible for any patient with suspected or confirmed influenza who is hospitalized; has severe, complicated, or progressive illness; or is at higher risk for influenza complication. It is also recommended that clinicians prescribe influenza antiviral chemoprophylaxis during influenza outbreaks in long-term care facilities.

Tips to Help You Stay Safe

Prevention is a key element and is strongly encouraged to help stop the spread of respiratory viruses. Counsel patients about everyday actions that can stop the spread of respiratory viruses:

- Get a flu and COVID-19 booster vaccine!
- Wear a well-fitting, good-quality mask, especially indoors or in crowded spaces.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it and wash your hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Stay away from sick people.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Germs spread this way.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs that can cause respiratory illnesses like the flu.

Please find information below regarding the latest guidance and resources from county, state, and federal organizations, including new updates:

- [PIN 22-31-ASC](#): Informational call on November 16, 2022 regarding COVID-19:
Latest updates: waivers, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), flu, and COVID-19

Helpful Resources

[Flu Vaccine Locations](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccination Locations](#)

[Importance of Flu Vaccination for People 65 Years and Older](#)

[Quadrivalent Flu Vaccines](#)

[Getting a Flu Vaccine and COVID-19 Vaccine at the Same Time](#)

[Make a Strong Flu Vaccine Recommendation](#)

[Influenza Antiviral Medication](#)

[San Diego County Respiratory Virus Surveillance Report](#)

[RSV \(Respiratory Syncytial Virus\) CDC](#)

[CAHAN: Early RSV Activity October 3, 2022](#)

Telebriefing Reminder

LONG-TERM CARE AND RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES SECTOR

**JOIN US THURSDAY
11/17/22 @ 2:00-3:00PM**



[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

[Submit Telebriefing Questions](#)

Please join us Thursday, November 17, 2022 from 2:00-3:00PM for Long-Term Care and Residential Care Facilities Telebriefing!

- Get the latest updates on vaccine boosters, testing, state and local guidance, and get your questions answered.
- Jennifer Wheeler, Long Term-Care Branch Director, Medical Operations Center, Public Health Services, will host the meeting.
- We will be joined by Dr. Raymond Chinn, County of San Diego Medical Consultant, Public Health Services, who will provide a COVID-19 update.

- We will also be joined by Melissa Penaflor, Community Developer from NAMI San Diego (National Alliance on Mental Illness), will share tips on helping residents and staff cope with depression and anxiety, especially during the holiday season.

To join the Long-Term Care Sector telebriefing on Thursday, click the button above:

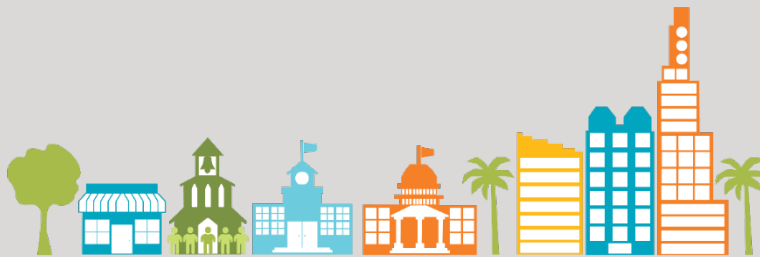
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For listen mode only, call: 1 (669) 900 6833, when prompted, enter the following **Meeting ID: 826 2009 8291. Passcode: 242111**

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County of San Diego · 1255 Imperial Ave Ste 720 · County Of San Diego / Office Of Strategy And Innov ·
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