Thursday, March 18, 2021

Greetings Long-Term Care and Residential Care Facilities of San Diego County,

As you may know, San Diego County has moved from the Purple Tier into the less restrictive Red Tier. It is recommended to follow the strictest guidance if there is any discrepancy between federal, state, and county guidance. Please always consult with your local licensing staff if you have questions.

We continue to ask for your patience as supply of COVID-19 vaccine has been limited and we are waiting for more to arrive in the upcoming weeks. Vaccination efforts continue to be an on-going priority for long-term care facilities, however please note that some clinics, County PODs, or SuperStations may need to reschedule or do second dosing only.

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

- **CAHAN San Diego Health Advisory Update:**
    - Health Advisory Update #28 – March 16, 2021: **COVID-19 Vaccine Update**
- **California Department of Public Health All Facilities Letters (AFLs):**
    - AFL 21-11 to Skilled Nursing Facilities provides updated guidelines for 3.5 Direct Care Service Hours Per Patient Day staffing audits
    - AFL 20-38.6 to All Facilities provides updated Visitor Limitations Guidance
        - **Long-Term Care Facilities should refer to AFL 20-22.6 for updated long-term care visitation guidance**

- **California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division Provider Information Notices (PINs):**
    - PowerPoint Slides from the **Informational Call Regarding COVID-19: Pandemic Updates and Preventing and Addressing Compassion Fatigue and Caregiver Burnout**, held Wednesday, March 17, 2021, 1:15 PM - 2:55 PM
    - PIN 21-02-CCR informs Continuing Care Retirement Community providers of a recent court decision that may affect the arbitration clause in their continuing care contracts.
    - PIN 21-16-ASC provides guidance on the use of antigen tests, including the BinaxNOW Point-of-Care (POC) COVID-19 Ag Card Test Kit.

- **Reminder:** Older Adult and Disability Sector telebriefing tomorrow, Friday, March 19, 3:00 PM; please scroll down for login information

- **Reminder:** If you are experiencing vaccine hesitancy from staff or residents at your facility, we have a team comprised of doctors and nurses that are available to provide an educational session/presentation on vaccine effectiveness and confidence. If you would like to request this please email us at COVID-LTC@sdcounty.ca.gov.

As a reminder, if you have a positive COVID-19 case at your facility, please report it by calling the County of San Diego Public Health Epidemiology Unit at (619) 692-8499 or (858) 565-5255 for after-hours or on the weekend. The County as well as your State licensing departments are here to support you.

Please email us at moc.logs.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov if you need personal protective equipment. For other questions, please feel free to email us at COVID-LTC@sdcounty.ca.gov or visit our webpage at www.coronavirus-sd.com/LTC.

Thank you for your continued efforts and partnership with the County of San Diego!

Announcements and News

California Health Alert Network San Diego
Health Advisory Update

New: Health Advisory Update #28: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Update – March 16, 2021

Key Messages:

- The Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine has received an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) and interim recommendations for use in the United States have been made.
- Providers should monitor the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Clinical Considerations webpage for frequently updated guidance on COVID-19 vaccination.
- The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has authorized as eligible for vaccination individuals age 16-64 at the highest risk for morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 as a direct result of severe health conditions.
- CDPH provided updates and additional clarifications to groups eligible for vaccination.

For more information on the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, vaccination guidance, recommendations for fully vaccinated people, vaccine allocation updates, and actions requested please see the **attached PDF** titled "CAHAN_SD_03_16_2021"

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Guidelines for Fully Vaccinated Individuals to Safely Visit with Others

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance for vaccinated individuals and visitation – March 8, 2021. Please note, this is not intended for healthcare personnel or congregate settings. For more information, please see CDC Issues First Set of Guidelines on How Fully Vaccinated People Can Visit Safely with Others | CDC Online Newsroom | CDC.

It is recommended to **follow the strictest guidance** when there is a discrepancy.
Please always consult with your local licensing staff if you have questions.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Visitation Guidance for Skilled Nursing Facilities

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services revised Skilled Nursing Facilities visitation guidance – March 10, 2021. For details, please see QSO-20-39-NH Revised (cms.gov)

It is recommended to **follow the strictest guidance** when there is a discrepancy.
Please always consult with your local licensing staff if you have questions.

California Department of Public Health

CDPH publishes news and All Facilities Letters (AFLs) regularly. If you would like to receive email notifications of AFLs, please submit your request to LNCPolicy@cdph.ca.gov.

New: AFL 21-11 to Skilled Nursing Facilities – March 17, 2021
Provides updated guidelines for facility requirements during state audits for compliance with the 3.5 Direct Care Service Hours Per Patient Day (DHPPD) staffing requirements, of which a minimum of 2.4 shall be performed by certified nurse assistants. This AFL supersedes AFL 19-16 and includes the following updates: permitting facilities to appeal a non-complain audit finding not rising to the level of an administrative penalty, increases administrative penalty amounts for non-compliance for the 3.5 and 2.4 DHPPD staffing requirements to $25,000 and $50,000 respectively, defines terms commonly used in the audit process, clarifies the use of for CDPH 530, and clarifies the allowance of non-traditional healthcare workers and how they will be counted as part of the auditing process during the COVID-19 pandemic.

New: AFL 20-38.6 to All Facilities – March 16, 2021
Expands CDPH's visitation guidance allowing facilities with substantial or lower COVID-19 county positivity rates to encourage safely getting more visitors to the bedside and updating prior recommendations for visitation, effective March 23, 2021 (one week from the release of this AFL). This AFL provides expanded visitation guidance for certain individuals, regardless of COVID-19 county positivity rate effective March 23, 2021, including patients at end-of-life, patients with physical, intellectual and/or developmental disabilities and patients with cognitive impairments, and more. **Long-term care facilities should refer to AFL 20-22.6 for updated long-term care visitation guidance.**

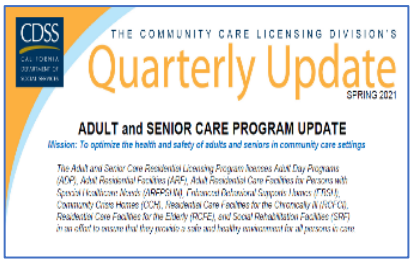
AFL 20-22.6 Letter to Long-Term Care Facilities – March 8, 2021
Provides Long-Term Care Facilities **guidance for limiting transmission** of COVID-19, including guidance for **visitation**; for detailed information, please see the fact sheet below:
California Department of Public Health Visitation Fact Sheet - Skilled Nursing Facilities

AFL 20-66.1 Letter to Skilled Nursing Facilities, Distinct Part Skilled Nursing Facilities, End Stage Renal Disease Dialysis Facilities, Chronic Dialysis Clinics – March 8, 2021
Provides updated guidance for the provision of home dialysis services in a Skilled Nursing Facility.

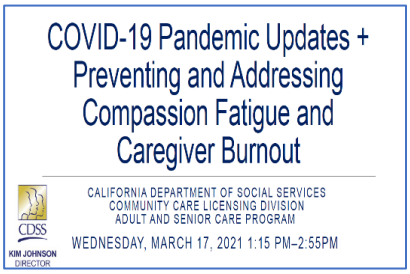
Click here to see a full list of recent AFLs

California Department of Social Services

The Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) publishes Provider Information Notices (PINs) to communicate important license related information to CCLD-licensed providers. The local San Diego Adult and Senior Care Regional Office can be reached at (619) 767-2300 or CCLASCPSanDiegoRO@dss.ca.gov.



CDSS **Spring 2021 Quarterly Updates** is available on their website here.



NEW: PowerPoint Slides (March 17, 2021) from the **Informational Call Regarding COVID-19: Pandemic Updates and Preventing and Addressing Compassion Fatigue and Caregiver Burnout**, held Wednesday, March 17, 1:15 PM - 2:55 PM PIN 21-15-ASC

NEW: PIN 21-16-ASC (March 15, 2021) to all Adult and Senior Care Programs Residential Licensees provides guidance to licensees about **antigen tests** in general, and specifically, about the Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card Test Kit; includes addendums: 1) Precautions and Limitations, and 2) Fact Sheet for Persons in Care.

*Please see more information below on the San Diego County BinaxNOW Distribution Program to request kits.

NEW: PIN 21-02-CCR (March 13, 2021) informs Continuing Care Retirement Community providers of a recent court decision that may affect the arbitration clause in their continuing care contracts.

PIN 21-14-ASC (March 4, 2021) to all Adult and Senior Care Programs Residential Licensees providing guidance to Adult and Senior Care residential licensees related to the COVID-19 vaccine. This twenty-page PIN includes sections such as:

- Increasing Vaccine Confidence
- CDC Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program
- Consent Requirements and Procedures
- Personal Rights and COVID-19 Vaccines
- Facility Staff Acceptance and Refusal

- TB and COVID-19 Vaccines
- Post Vaccine Considerations for Residents and Facility Staff
- And additional resources

Click here to browse the full list of recent PINs

County of San Diego
COVID-19 Diagnostic Antigen Test
BinaxNOW
Distribution Program

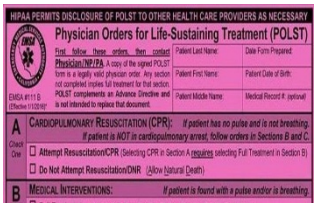
Reminder: Access to the **Abbott BinaxNOW POC antigen tests** is being coordinated by the federal government and State through our local Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator local program within the County. Kits are available in San Diego County for approved health care partners. These point-of-care (POC) antigen diagnostic tests detect the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and can provide results in less than 20 minutes. Antigen tests have been added to the COVID-19 testing arena to meet the growing demand.

If you are interested in receiving these test kits, note a few of the **following requirements** which are listed in the attachment in further detail:

- Obtain (and attach) a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) waiver
- Read and acknowledge responsibilities in the attached BinaxNOW Distribution Program
- Allow for a minimum of 48 hours for process and 2-3 days for delivery

For more detailed information, please click here.

Please email moc.logs.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov for more information.



San Diego County Coalition for
Improving Palliative & End-of-Life Care

POLST & COVID-19

To learn more about the POLST and COVID-19, join the San Diego County Coalition for Improving Palliative & End-of-Life Care April meeting:

Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment (POLST) & COVID-19

Guest Speaker: Dr. Karl Steinberg

Wednesday, April 7, 2021, 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Please RSVP via Eventbrite

County of San Diego

COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program 2021

Reminder: Please share this information with staff or anyone who may need assistance.

- San Diego County residents financially impacted by COVID-19 who need help paying their rent and utilities may qualify for assistance.
- Applications for the County of San Diego's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) 2021 can now be submitted. The County's ERAP 2021 serves all areas of the San Diego region except for the cities of San Diego and Chula Vista.
- For more information on the County's program, please visit **www.sdhcd.org** or call (858) 694-4801 to speak to a housing representative.
- If you are a resident of the cities of San Diego and Chula Vista, or if you are not sure which program serves your area, please visit www.ERAPsandiego.org.

COVID-19 Helpful Hotlines

- **Public COVID-19 Call Center**: 1-833-422-4255, Monday-Friday 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM; Saturday and Sunday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, for general questions about COVID-19, including vaccines, scheduling vaccination appointments through My Turn, return to school, testing, and more.
- **My Turn Call Center:** 1-833-422-4255 for Californians to sign up for a notification when it's their turn to get a vaccine.

- **Community Care Licensing Division Helpline:** A CCLD clinician will be available Monday – Friday (excluding holidays) during business hours of 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM to answer questions related to infection prevention and control. Additionally, a voicemail system is available for leaving a message after business hours, on weekends, and on holidays. **During business hours**:1-844-538-8766 (Press #7 when prompted); **After business hours, on weekends, and on holidays:** 1-833-498-2027

Updated Public Health Order

San Diego County Public Health Order (2/6/2021) Click here.

Order of the Public Health Officer (2/12/2021):

- **Quarantine** guidance has been updated (page 2, number 2) Click here.

Monoclonal Antibody Treatment is Available

Reminder:

- The Monoclonal Antibody Regional Center (MARC) is open to treat mild to moderate COVID-19 in adults and pediatric patients (12 years of age and older weighing at least 40 kg) with positive results of PCR or Rapid Antigen SARS-CoV-2 testing, and who are at high risk for progressing to severer COVID-19 and/or hospitalization. Treatment should be administered as soon as possible after positive results of SARS-CoV-2 testing, and within 10 days of symptom onset.
- The MARC is open 7 days a week from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM at the Palomar Medical Center Downtown (555 East Valley Parkway, Escondido, CA 92025).
- Another MARC location in the South Region is being explored to provide services in the area.
- Treatment is available at **no-cost** to those who live or work in San Diego County, regardless of health insurance or immigration status.
- Patients 65 years of age or older do not require a referral and may call **(619) 685-2500** with questions and/or to schedule an appointment for COVID-19 monoclonal antibody treatment.
- Patients younger than 65 years old, talk to your doctor to see if you are medically eligible for this treatment and to receive a referral.

For questions, please email COVIDtreatment@sdcounty.ca.gov. For additional information, please visit www.sandiegocounty.gov/COVIDHealthProfessionals.

Please click on patient flyer links for more information:
MARC Patient Flyer (English), MARC Patient Flyer (Spanish)

Vaccinate ALL 58
Together we can end the pandemic.

California COVID-19 Vaccination Program Update

Federal Retail Pharmacy Program Activation

The Federal Retail Pharmacy Program has been activated and some pharmacy partners include **CVS, Rite Aid, Walgreens, and Albertsons**. Target population includes people 65+ and healthcare workers. Appointments will be required. Eligible Californians should not contact individual stores for appointments or come to the store seeking a vaccination without an appointment. Eligible individuals should be directed to the following scheduling links below for an appointment:

CVS: https://www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine

Rite Aid: https://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/covid-qualifier

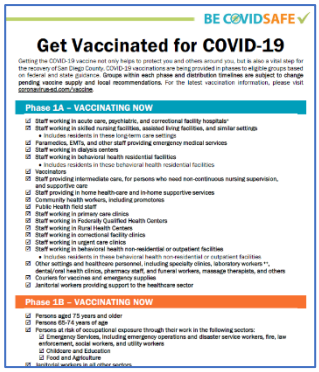
Walgreens: https://www.walgreens.com/topic/promotion/covid-vaccine.jsp

Albertsons: https://www.albertsons.com/pharmacy/covid-19.html

Additionally for CVS only, appointment can also be scheduled via CVS pharmacy app and eligible individuals without internet access can call **CVS at 800-746-7287** for assistance on scheduling.

For questions, please email: COVIDvaccinePharm@cdph.ca.gov

COVID-19 Vaccine Resources for Long-Term Care Facilities



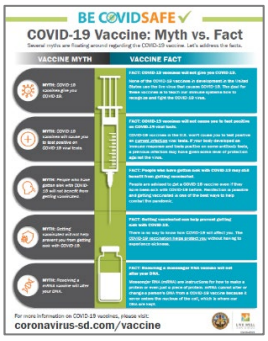
Updated: People who live and work in San Diego County AND are in Phase 1A, Phase 1B, and Phase 1C are currently eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. For printable flyers, please see below:

- Know Your Vaccination Phase (English)
- Know Your Vaccination Phase (Spanish)

Also, please continue to share the County COVID-19 Vaccine webpage for appointments with your staff and ambulatory residents.

Transportation- If you are aware of staff, ambulatory residents, and/or their family members who may need transportation to a vaccination site, the Metropolitan Transit System and North County Transit District are offering **free rides** for everyone in the region who needs a lift **to their vaccine appointment.** Ride any bus, trolley, SPRINTER or COASTER for FREE with proof of vaccine appointment. For more information, visit the MTS webpage.

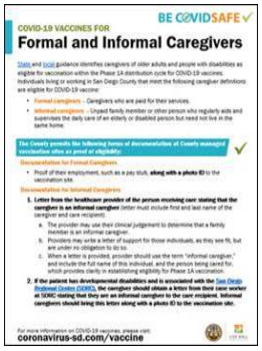
COVID-19 vaccine presentations are available through the *Live Well San Diego* **Speaker's Bureau** that provides free presentations delivered by volunteer medical professionals, including doctors and nurses, who are subject matter experts. Fill out an online interest form on our *Live Well San Diego* website to request a presentation.



COVID-19 Vaccine Myth vs. Fact handouts are available in English and Spanish.

Please click link below for the flyer:

COVID-19 Vaccine – Myth vs. Fact (English/Spanish)



Both **formal and informal caregivers** to elderly and people with disabilities are identified in the additional Phase 1A priority groups to receive the COVID-19 vaccine .

Please click links below for the flyers, including documentation needed:

COVID-19 Vaccination for Formal and Informal Caregivers (English)

COVID-19 Vaccination for Formal and Informal Caregivers (Spanish/Español)

Reminder: Please check out the County's webpage with COVID-19 educational materials in different languages. Please click here and scroll down the list of options in Spanish, Tagalog,

Arabic, Aramaic, Chinese, Farsi, Japanese, Vietnamese, Korean, and more. The County COVID-19 Information and Resources in Other Languages webpage is a great resource.

Stay informed about COVID-19 vaccination information by bookmarking the County COVID-19 vaccine webpage. Information regarding how the COVID-19 vaccine works, safety, and phases of vaccine administration, and more can be found on this webpage.

COVID-19 Vaccine Community Conversation Toolbox

The County of San Diego has created the **COVID-19 Vaccine Community Conversation Toolbox**. This toolbox is primarily for healthcare workers (doctors and nurses who have been identified as trusted messengers of COVID-19 vaccine information) to have conversations about the COVID-19 vaccine. Fact sheets, links to important websites, handouts (English and Spanish), and Frequently Asked Questions are included.

CDC Vaccine Considerations

Please click here for some CDC vaccine considerations.

1. Both mRNA vaccines require a 2nd dose: Pfizer at 21 days and Moderna at 28 days
2. The second dose should NOT be administered any sooner than 21 days (Pfizer) or 28 days (Moderna)
3. The second dose of both mRNA vaccines may be administered up to 6 weeks after the first dose

Long-Term Care Facility Resources

Post Vaccine Considerations for Residents — While this guidance is intended for long-term care facilities, it could also be applied to patients in other healthcare settings. Considerations are based on the current understanding of signs and symptoms following COVID-19 vaccination, including timing and duration, and might change as experience with the vaccine accumulates.

Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination in Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCF) — Making sure LTCF residents can receive COVID-19 vaccination as soon as vaccine is available will help save the lives of those who are most at risk of dying from COVID-19. CDC updates frequently asked questions for Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control and Healthcare Professionals regularly based on feedback from professionals on the ground.

The Vaccination Toolkit for Long-term Care Facilities is available on CDC's website.

Importance of COVID-19 Vaccination for Residents of Long-term Care Facilities — This guidance has been updated to include long-term care consent information for COVID-19 vaccination. To learn more visit, Vaccinating Long-Term Care Facility Residents.

CDC Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program

As you know, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program partners with **CVS and Walgreens pharmacies** to provide on-site no-cost COVID-19 vaccinations.

For more information, please see the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program for COVID-19 Vaccination FAQs. If a facility would like to email CVS or Walgreens directly, please see below:

- **CVS Email:** CovidVaccineClinicsLTCF@CVSHealth.com
- **Walgreens Email:** immunizeltc@walgreens.com

Upcoming Telebriefings

Thursday, March 25 at 2:00 PM

Telebriefing for the **Long-Term Care and Residential Care Facilities Sector**

WHEN: Telebriefings will be held the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month from 2:00 – 3:00 PM.

Zoom Meeting Link | Submit Telebriefing Questions

Visit the **Long-Term Care and Residential Care Facilities** sector webpage

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Friday, March 19 at 3:00 PM

Telebriefing for the **Older Adult and Disability Sector**

WHEN: Telebriefings will be held on the 3rd Friday of the month from 3:00 – 4:00 PM.

Zoom Meeting Link | Submit Telebriefing Questions

Visit the **Older Adult and Disability Sector** webpage.

Ongoing Programs, Services, and Resources

County of San Diego Coronavirus Disease 2019

For up-to-date local information on COVID-19 within the County of San Diego, visit

www.coronavirus-sd.com

COVID-19 Testing Information & Resources

For testing locations or to make an appointment at a drive-up location, visit the

Testing in San Diego County webpage.

CDC Infection Control Resources

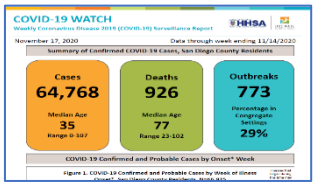
CDC Guidance and Resources for Infection Control in Facilities

CLICK HERE

Case Rates by Zip Code

To view an interactive COVID-19 case rates by ZIP code map,

CLICK HERE



COVID-19 Watch Surveillance Report

County of San Diego COVID-19 Dashboard and Weekly Report

CLICK HERE

Triggers Dashboard: Testing Positivity Rate

The frequency of routine testing of skilled nursing facility staff depends on the San Diego County Positivity Rate.

View the current Positivity Rate here (Item #10: Testing Positivity)

2-1-1 San Diego

For general health questions about COVID-19, community resources, or if you are uninsured, dial **2-1-1**

2-1-1 San Diego

Live Well @ Home

Interested in free resources, tips, and strategies to stay healthy in both mind and body while staying at home?

CLICK HERE

Questions?

For questions related to long-term care and residential care facilities, please email:

COVID-LTC@sdcounty.ca.gov

Stay Connected

For questions related to long-term care and residential care facilities, please email: COVID-LTC@sdcounty.ca.gov.
Visit the Long-Term Care and Residential Care Facilities sector support webpage

Text **COSD COVID-19** to **468-311** to get text alert updates from the County of San Diego.

COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO HHSA HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

LIVE WELL SAN DIEGO