

Friday, March 26, 2021

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

We continue to ask for your patience as the supply of COVID-19 vaccine has been limited. The good news is that supply will be arriving soon. 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 until allocations arrive.

This week has also been busy in terms of new guidance from both CDPH and CDSS. Please consult with your local licensing staff if you have questions on how it may apply in your setting.

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

- PowerPoint slides from the Long-Term Care Telebriefing on March 25, 2021:
  - Dr. Raymond Chinn, County of San Diego COVID-19 Update
- California Department of Public Health (CDPH):
  - AFL 21-08.2 provides guidance to General Acute Care Hospitals, Acute Psychiatric Hospitals, and Skilled Nursing Facilities on quarantine for health care personnel exposed to SARS-CoV-2
  - CDPH COVID-19 Response Toolkit
- California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division:

- <u>PowerPoint Slides</u> from the <u>Informational Call Regarding COVID-19</u>: <u>New Guidance on Visitation</u>, <u>Outing</u>, <u>Dining</u>, <u>and Social Activities</u>, held Friday, March 26, 2021, 12:00 PM 1:00 PM
- <u>PIN 21-17-ACS</u> informs all Adult and Senior Care Program Residential Licensees on updates regarding visitation, communal dining, group activities, non-essential services, outings, and new admissions.
- Federal Emergency Management Agency <u>COVID-19 Funeral Assistance</u>
- Reminder: Early Treatment for COVID-19 is available at the Monoclonal Antibody
   Regional Center
- Update: COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance extended until March 31st
- Our next telebriefing will be held on Thursday, April 8, 2:00-3:00 PM, with a special guest representative from the Community Care Licensing Division to discuss PIN 21-17-ACS.
- 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 <a href="moc.logs.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov">moc.logs.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov</a> if you need personal protective equipment. For other questions, please feel free to email us at <a href="mailto:COVID-LTC@sdcounty.ca.gov">COVID-LTC@sdcounty.ca.gov</a> or visit our webpage at <a href="mailto:www.coronavirus-sd.com/LTC">www.coronavirus-sd.com/LTC</a>.

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



#### **Announcements and News**

#### **PowerPoint Slides**

Long-Term Care and Residential Care Facilities Telebriefing
March 25, 2021



**NEW:** Dr. Raymond Chinn, County of San Diego, Medical Consultant, provided a **COVID-19 Update**.

Please see attached PDF titled

"DrChinn\_CountyCOVID19\_Updates\_3\_25\_21"



#### **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 <a href="mailto:LNCPolicy@cdph.ca.gov">LNCPolicy@cdph.ca.gov</a>.

**New:** <u>AFL 21-08.2</u> to General Acute Care Hospitals, Acute Psychiatric Hospitals, Skilled Nursing Facilities – March 23, 2021

Provides health care facilities with updated guidance on exposure risk assessment and the duration of quarantine for SARS-CoV-2 exposed health care personnel working in hospitals, SNFs, and SNF residents. This revision includes updated risk and quarantine guidance from the CDC for health care personnel working in hospitals and SNFs and SNF residents who have been fully vaccinated against SARS-CoV-2.

**NEW:** <u>CDPH COVID-19 Toolkit</u> serves as a one-stop-shop for partners to access materials available for download and sharing in support of outreach and education. This toolkit has numerous videos, social media messages, infographics, handouts, fact sheets, and more.

AFL 21-11 to Skilled Nursing Facilities – March 17, 2021

Provides updated guidelines for 3.5 Direct Care Service Hours Per Patient Day staffing audits.

AFL 20-22.6 - March 8, 2021

Provides updated visitation guidance for long-term care facilities.

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 <u>here</u>.

New Guidance on Visitation, Outings, Dining, and Social Activities

CDSS KIM JOHNSON DIRECTOR CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING DIVISION ADULT AND SENIOR CARE PROGRAM

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2021 12:00 PM-1:00PM

NEW: <u>PowerPoint Slides</u> (March 26, 2021) from the Informational Call Regarding COVID-19: New Guidance on Visitation, Outing, Dining, and Social Activities, held Friday, March 26, 2021, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM <u>PIN 21-18-ASC</u> Please see attached PDF "CCL\_Slides\_InfoCall\_3\_26\_21"

**NEW:** <u>PIN 21-17-ASC</u> (March 19, 2021) to all Adult and Senior Care Programs Residential Licensees provides updates for visitation, guidance on communal dining, group activities, non-essential services, residents returning from outings and new admissions.

<u>PIN 21-16-ASC</u> (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.

<u>PIN 21-14-ASC</u> (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.



#### **COVID-19 Funeral Assistance**

**NEW:** The COVID-19 pandemic has brought overwhelming grief to many families. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will provide financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020. FEMA will begin to implement COVID-19 funeral assistance in April.

Please check the FEMA webpage <u>COVID-19 Funeral Assistance</u> for more information such as who is eligible, how to apply, and how funds are received.

Additional guidance is being finalized and will be released as soon as possible. In the meantime, people who have COVID-19 funeral expenses are encouraged to keep and gather documentation.



# Early Treatment for COVID-19 is Available at the Monoclonal Antibody Reginal Center (MARC)

#### Reminder:

- Monoclonal antibodies have been shown in <u>clinical trials</u> to reduce COVID-19-related hospitalization and emergency room visits.
- The Monoclonal Antibody Regional Center 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 in the final stages of development. Stay tuned!
- Treatment is available at no-cost to those who live or work in San Diego County, regardless of health insurance or immigration status.
- Patients <u>65 years of age or older do not require a referral</u> and may call **(619) 685-2500**with questions and/or to schedule an appointment for COVID-19 monoclonal antibody treatment.
- Patients <u>younger than 65 years old</u>, talk to your doctor to see if you are medically eligible for this treatment and to receive a referral.

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

Please click on patient flyer links for more information:

MARC Patient Flyer (English), MARC Patient Flyer (Spanish)



County of San Diego
COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance
Program 2021- extended until March 31st

**Update:** Please share this information with staff or anyone who may need assistance. This program has been extended until March 31, 2021.

- 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 <a href="www.sdhcd.org">www.sdhcd.org</a> 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 <a href="https://www.ERAPsandiego.org">www.ERAPsandiego.org</a>.



# California Health Alert Network San Diego Health Advisory Update

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.
- o 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 <a href="CDC Issues First Set of Guidelines on How Fully Vaccinated People Can Visit Safely with Others | CDC Online Newsroom | CDC.">CDC.</a>

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.



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



- 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 <a href="here">here</a>. Order of the Public Health Officer (2/12/2021):

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



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 <u>not</u> 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

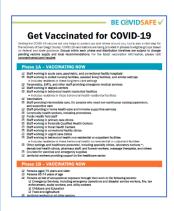
Albertsons: https://www.albertsons.com/pharmacy/covid-19.html

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



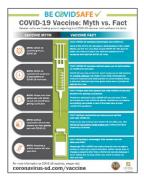
People who live and work in San Diego County AND are in <a href="Phase 1A">Phase 1B</a>, and <a href="Phase 1C">and Phase 1C</a> are currently eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. For printable flyers, please see below:

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

Also, please continue to share the County <u>COVID-19 Vaccine</u> 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 <u>MTS webpage</u>.

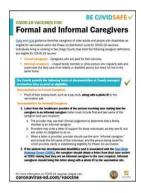
**COVID-19 vaccine presentations** are available through the *Live Well San Diego* Speaker's Bureau that provides free presentations delivered by volunteer medical professionals, including doctors and nurses, who are subject matter experts. Fill out an online interest form on our *Live Well San Diego* 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 <u>additional Phase 1A priority groups</u> to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

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

<u>COVID-19 Vaccination for Formal and Informal Caregivers (English)</u>

<u>COVID-19 Vaccination for Formal and Informal Caregivers</u>

(Spanish/Español)

Reminder: Please check out the County's webpage with COVID-19 educational materials in different languages. Please <u>click here</u> and scroll down the list of options in Spanish, Tagalog, Arabic, Aramaic, Chinese, Farsi, Japanese, Vietnamese, Korean, and more. The County COVID-19 <u>Information and Resources in Other Languages</u> webpage is a great resource.

Stay informed about COVID-19 vaccination information by bookmarking the <u>County COVID-19</u> <u>vaccine webpage</u>. 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 <u>COVID-19 Vaccine Community Conversation</u> <u>Toolbox</u>. 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 <u>this guidance</u> 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 <u>frequently asked questions</u> for Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control and Healthcare Professionals regularly based on feedback from professionals on the ground.

The <u>Vaccination Toolkit for Long-term Care Facilities</u> 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, <a href="Vaccinating Long-Term Care Facility">Vaccinating Long-Term Care Facility</a> 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 onsite no-cost COVID-19 vaccinations.

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

- CVS Email: <u>CovidVaccineClinicsLTCF@CVSHealth.com</u>
- Walgreens Email: <u>immunizeltc@walgreens.com</u>



#### **Upcoming Telebriefings**



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

**WHEN:** Telebriefings will be held the  $2^{nd}$  and  $4^{th}$  Thursdays of the month from 2:00-3:00 PM.

Submit Telebriefing Questions

Thursday,
April 8
at 2:00 PM

Visit the Long-Term Care and Residential Care Facilities sector

webpage



Friday,
April 16
at 3:00 PM

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

**WHEN:** Telebriefings will be held on the  $3^{rd}$  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** 

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#### 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 longterm 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: <a href="mailto:COVID-LTC@sdcounty.ca.gov">COVID-LTC@sdcounty.ca.gov</a>. Visit the Long-Term Care and Residential Care Facilities sector support <a href="mailto:webpage">webpage</a>







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





