



CORONAVIRUS  
DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

## WEEKLY UPDATE

### LONG-TERM CARE AND RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES

**Friday, January 22, 2021**

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

Vaccinations are rolling out across the County in the Long-Term Care Facilities. The Pharmacy Partnership with CVS and Walgreens has been implemented and getting out to many facilities. The County of San Diego, along with partners such as County CalFire and Champions for Health, are working together to assist when they are able to get to facilities ahead of the pharmacies. We are excited for these new resources for Long-Term Care Facilities' staff and residents along with the Petco Super Station, County PODs, and the newly opened Sharp Southbay Super Station in Chula Vista that is operated by Sharp Healthcare.

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

- The County of San Diego has expanded the category of those eligible to receive a COVID vaccine to include those aged 75 and up (Phase 1B, Tier 1) in addition to all those already eligible in Phase 1A
- Updated! CDC Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program- CVS and Walgreens email contacts
- CDPH news release: COVID-19 Variant (L452R) is linked to multiple outbreaks in Santa Clara County and being studied by California genomic sequencing experts
- CDPH Revision of Allocation Guidelines for COVID-19 Vaccine During Phase 1A: Recommendations

- All Facilities Letter (AFL) requesting Skilled Nursing Facilities participate in a survey about Interdisciplinary Teams and the need for independent patient representatives (**AFL 21-06**)
- AFL informing Skilled Nursing Facilities of the process for requesting resources through Salesforce to assist in the fit-testing of respiratory protection for staff. (**AFL 21-05**)
- AFL regarding interdisciplinary team authorized medical interventions for residents unable to provide informed consent and without a health care decision maker (**AFL 20.83.1**)
- Notes from the California Department of Public Health Weekly Facility COVID-19 Update Call (January 13 & 14, 2021)
- Letter to Adult and Senior Care residential licensees related to advance care planning during the COVID-19 pandemic (**PIN 21-04-ASC**)

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.

For additional information, please see our website [www.coronavirus-sd.com/LTC](http://www.coronavirus-sd.com/LTC). Please email us at [moc.logs.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:moc.logs.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov) if you need personal protective equipment.

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



## Announcements and News



### COVID-19 Vaccine Resources for Long-Term Care Facilities

**UPDATED!** Effective 1/18/2021, healthcare workers, others in [Phase 1A](#) (all Tiers), and those 75 and older may visit County vaccination sites. For those 65 and older, the County intends to begin vaccinations for this population before the end of the month, pending vaccine supply. Doctors, pharmacists, and other healthcare providers may administer vaccinations to those 65 and older, if they have doses available. Visit the County COVID-19 Vaccine webpage for appointments [here](#). Please check back regularly if there are no appointments available.

Also, please be advised that eligible individuals should first contact their doctor or other medical provider for a COVID-19 vaccination.

**1A-Tier 1  
Vaccinating NOW**

• Acute care, psychiatric, and

**1A-Tier 2  
Vaccinating NOW**

• Intermediate care, for

**1A-Tier 3  
Vaccinating NOW**

Other settings and healthcare

## Things to Know Before You Go...

1. Expect to remain in your car for the duration of the visit. Please practice safety guidelines such as opening windows, hand sanitizing, wearing masks especially if you have more than one resident in a vehicle.
2. For **residents** of the facility: If your residents are able to be transported in a vehicle, please bring documentation of their residence at your facility (proof of residence at a long-term care facility). This can include a letter signed by the administrator or on-site lead **AND** a photo ID. *You may also print this email and take it with you to validate that long-term care facility residents are part of Phase 1A and are able to get vaccinated.*
3. For **all staff**: At the time of your appointment, you must present an employee ID badge with your photo (or other valid documentation) that establishes you are a healthcare worker within eligible Phase 1A groups (Tiers 1-3).
  - Other documents accepted for healthcare work identification: Professional license **AND** a photo ID; or, a signed letter from your employer on facility letterhead **AND** a photo ID; or, a payment stub or timesheet from your healthcare employer or in-home supportive services **AND** a photo ID.
4. You will be required to **wear a mask** and adhere to **social distancing** guidelines for the duration of the visit.
5. After your vaccine has been administered, you will be asked to remain at the location for a **15-minute** observation period.

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.

## 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. For the LTC Vaccination Toolkit and all COVID-19 vaccination toolkits visit: [COVID-19 Vaccination Toolkits | CDC](#)

**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](#).

## UPDATED! 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](mailto:CovidVaccineClinicsLTCF@CVSHealth.com)
- **Walgreens Email:** [immunizeltc@walgreens.com](mailto:immunizeltc@walgreens.com)

## Other Resources:

- Information from the CDC about **COVID-19 Vaccination Planning**, [click here](#).

- View the CDC PowerPoint “What Clinicians Need to Know About the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine”, [click here](#).



## 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](mailto:LNCPolicy@cdph.ca.gov).

**NEW!** L452R Variant of COVID-19 is increasingly being found in multiple counties throughout California. This variant is linked to multiple outbreaks in Santa Clara County and being studied by California genomic sequencing experts. Read the entire news release from CDPH [here](#).

**NEW!** CDPH’s **Revision of Allocation Guidelines for COVID-19 Vaccine** – January 13, 2021. To prevent hospitalizations and deaths, to more effectively and expeditiously administer vaccines, and to maintain hospital services to all Californians, especially in the most impacted communities, California will prioritize vaccinating health care personnel, including vaccinators, and all persons 65 years of age or older. In addition, to achieve the timely and maximum vaccination of Californians, CDPH recommends the use of 50 percent of doses providers have received as second doses to vaccinate individuals as described above. You can read the guidelines [here](#).

**NEW!** Letter to Skilled Nursing Facilities and Intermediate Care Facilities: [AFL 21-06](#) – January 20, 2021  
This AFL requests Skilled Nursing Facilities participate in a survey about Interdisciplinary Teams and the need for independent patient representatives.

**NEW!** Letter to Skilled Nursing Facilities: [AFL 21-05](#) – January 13, 2021  
This AFL informs Skilled Nursing Facilities of the process for requesting resources through Salesforce to assist in the fit-testing of respiratory protection for staff.

**NEW!** Letter to Skilled Nursing Facilities and Intermediate Care Facilities: [AFL 20-83.1](#) – January 12, 2021  
This AFL notifies Skilled Nursing Facilities and Intermediate Care Facilities regarding Interdisciplinary Team authorized medical interventions for residents unable to provide informed consent and without a health care decision maker (this AFL supersedes AFL 20-83).

**NEW!** Notes from the California Department of Public Health Weekly Facility COVID-19 Update (January 13 & 14, 2021) Please see attached PDF titled AFC+SNF+IP+CALL+Notes+1\_1314\_2021.pdf

[Click here to see a full list of recent AFLs](#)



## California Department of Social Services

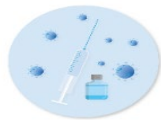
The Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) publishes Provider Information Notices (PINs) to communicate important license related information to CCLD-licensed providers. The local San Diego Adult and Senior Care Regional Office can be reached at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

[CCLASCPSanDiegoRO@dss.ca.gov](mailto:CCLASCPSanDiegoRO@dss.ca.gov).

**NEW!** [PIN 21-04-ASC](#) (January 14, 2021) provides guidance to Adult and Senior Care residential licensees related to advance care planning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[PIN 20-29-CCLD](#) announces a **Helpline** resource for providers to obtain information on infection prevention and control best practices. A CCLD clinician will be available M-F (excluding holidays) from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm to answer questions related to infection prevention and control. **During business hours:** 1-844-538-8766 (Press #7 when prompted); **After business hours, on weekends, and on holidays:** 1-833-498-2027

[Click here to browse the full list of recent PINs](#)



## Flu Vaccine Information

Protect Yourself! Your Loved Ones! Your Community! It's not too late to get a flu vaccine. Flu season is October – May.

- [Flu vaccines available at County of San Diego Public Health Centers](#)
- [Champions for Health offers free flu vaccines throughout the County](#)



**Free On-Site  
Flu Vaccine Clinics**

Champions for Health



Champions for Health, a County of San Diego mass vaccination flu provider, is looking for senior nursing facilities, adult residential facilities, single living occupancies, and more to **provide free flu shots on site**. They bring all the materials, vaccine, and San Diego Immunization Registry staff to enter vaccination data in real time. They can provide needed medical volunteers if your medical staff can't help with vaccinations. Preference will be given to locations in COVID-19 hot spots and facilities serving a population that is high-risk for COVID-19. Contact [Andrew.Gonzalez@ChampionsFH.org](mailto:Andrew.Gonzalez@ChampionsFH.org) or text 213-550-9429. Complete an interest form [here](#).



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

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 now 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
- Complete and sign the Appendix A – Organizational Checklist and Attestation and Staffing List for the BinaxNOW Antigen Test Kits
- Email completed and signed PDF [Checklist](#), [Attestation](#) AND [CLIA Waiver](#) to: [LOGS.TESTING.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:LOGS.TESTING.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov) (incomplete forms delay delivery)
- Allow for a minimum of 48 hours for process and 2-3 days for delivery

Please direct program questions to the relevant point of contact below:

**Quick Reference Resources:**

Topic	Name	Contact Information
Application, Test Allotment and Shipments	CoSD MOC	<a href="mailto:LOGS.TESTING.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov">LOGS.TESTING.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov</a>

<b>Electronic Reporting of Test Results</b>	CoSD PUBLIC HEALTH Electronic Reporting On-boarding Team	<a href="mailto:Epi-CDReporting.HHSA@sdcountry.ca.gov">Epi-CDReporting.HHSA@sdcountry.ca.gov</a>
<b>CLIA related questions</b>	CDPH Laboratory Field Services	Call 510-620-3800 or <a href="mailto:LFSCC@cdph.ca.gov">LFSCC@cdph.ca.gov</a>
<b>Infectious Waste Disposal</b>	Department of Environmental Health	<a href="#">Hazardous Materials Duty Desk</a> at (858) 505-6880 Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 5 pm.
<b>Training</b>	Abbott (Manufacturer)	<a href="mailto:ts.scr@abbott.com">ts.scr@abbott.com</a> or call 1-800-257-9525. Training videos can be found <a href="#">here</a> .

**Helpful Documents for the BinaxNOW COVID-19 Test Kit** including

BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Healthcare Provider Fact Sheet, BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Patient Fact Sheet, Procedure Card and Package Insert [Click here](#).

For more information on the BinaxNOW Distribution Program, **please see the attached PDFs** titled “BinaxNOW Distribution Program 12 19 20 Final.2” and “BinaxNOW-Attestation and Trained Staff Table REQUIRED”



## State and Local Public Health Orders

**County of San Diego Order of the Health Officer**

- **Isolation** of All Persons with or Likely to Have COVID-19. Click [here](#).
- **Quarantine** of Persons Exposed to COVID-19. Click [here](#).

**County of San Diego Public Health Order (12/10/2020)** Click [here](#).



### Upcoming Telebriefings



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

**WHEN:** Beginning January 2021, telebriefings will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month from 2:00 – 3:00 PM.

**Thursday,  
January 28  
at 2:00 PM**

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

[Submit Telebriefing Questions](#)



Visit the **Long-Term Care and Residential Care Facilities** sector [webpage](#)



**Friday,  
February 19  
at 3:00 PM**

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

Telebriefings will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month from 3:00 – 4:00 PM.

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

[Submit Telebriefing Questions](#)

Visit the **Older Adult and Disability Sector** support [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](http://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](#).



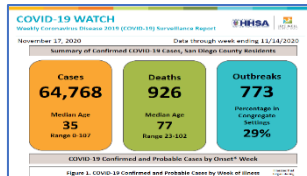
### CDC Infection Control Resources

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](mailto: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](mailto:COVID-LTC@sdcounty.ca.gov).



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





**California Department of Public Health  
Center for Health Care Quality  
AFC Skilled Nursing Facilities Infection Prevention Call  
January 13 & 14, 2021**

Notes for the weekly calls can be accessed at the CDPH Skilled Nursing Facility Infection Prevention Education website <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/Pages/SNFeducation.aspx>

Handouts and recordings for the Wednesday Webinars can be accessed at the Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG) registration website <https://www.hsag.com/cdph-ip-webinars>

**CDPH Weekly Call-in Information:**

Tuesday 8:00am All Facilities Calls: 844.721.7239; Access code: 7993227

Wednesday 3:00pm SNF Infection Prevention Webinars: Register at: <https://www.hsag.com/cdph-ip-webinars>

Thursday 12:00pm SNF Infection Prevention Calls: 877.226.8163; Access code: 513711

**The January 13, 2021 webinar presentation covered the following updates:**

- **Testing Taskforce Update**
  - In regard to the Valencia Branch Laboratory, if you are interested in setting up a community testing site at your facility please fill out the interest request form. This is available on <https://testing.covid19.ca.gov> and clicking on the Valencia Branch Laboratory link and then click on the interest form link. There is a Community testing site playbook that is available on the Valencia Branch Laboratory page that explains how to setup a community testing site. We encourage any group that is interested in testing people in their community to review the testing playbook and the testing site obligations and submit an interest form to begin the process to establish a testing site.
  
- **CDPH SNF Infection Preventionist Online Course**
  - 14-hour self-paced California-centric IP course will be available February 1-April 30, 2021.
  - Registration information for first 100 attendees coming soon. Each module is 15-60 minutes.
  
- **COVID-19 Therapeutics Task Force Update:**
  - Presentation on monoclonal antibody emergency use authorization from Dr. Sohrab Sidhu, Medical Quality Officer, California Department of Health Care Services
  - Operation Warp Speed Monoclonal Antibody Playbook  
[https://www.phe.gov/emergency/events/COVID19/investigation-MCM/Bamlanivimab/Documents/OWS\\_MAB\\_%20playbook\\_10Nov20-508.pdf](https://www.phe.gov/emergency/events/COVID19/investigation-MCM/Bamlanivimab/Documents/OWS_MAB_%20playbook_10Nov20-508.pdf)
  - Bamlanivimab resources:
    - CDPH Bamlanivimab Distribution Fact Sheet  
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Bamlanivimab-Fact-Sheet.aspx>
    - Bamlanivimab EUA Fact Sheet for Health Care Providers:  
<https://www.fda.gov/media/143603/download>
    - Bamlanivimab EUA Fact Sheet for Patients, Parents and Caregivers:  
<https://www.fda.gov/media/143604/download> Bamlanivimab FAQ  
<https://www.fda.gov/media/143605/download>
  - Casirivimab/Imdevimab Resources:

- CDPH Casirivimab/Imdevimab Distribution Fact Sheet: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Casirivimab-Imdevimab-Fact-Sheet.aspx>
    - Casirivimab/Imdevimab Fact Sheet for Health Care Providers: <https://www.fda.gov/media/143892/download>
    - Casirivimab/Imdevimab Fact Sheet for Patients, Parents and Caregivers: <https://www.fda.gov/media/143893/download>
  - Casirivimab/Imdevimab FAQ <https://www.fda.gov/media/143894/download>
  - NIH COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines: <https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/>
    - [\(NEW\) NIH COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines Panel's statement on ivermectin: https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/statement-on-ivermectin/](https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/statement-on-ivermectin/)
  - IDSA Treatment Guidelines: <https://www.idsociety.org/practice-guideline/covid-19-guideline-treatment-and-management/#toc-10>.
- **COVID-19 Vaccine Updates**
    - AHCA and NCAL Preparing for COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics resources [https://educate.ahcanal.org/products/preparing-for-covid-19-vaccine-clinics#tab-product-tab\\_resources](https://educate.ahcanal.org/products/preparing-for-covid-19-vaccine-clinics#tab-product-tab_resources)
    - **CVS Contact Information:** <https://www.omnicare.com/covid-19-vaccine-resource>; Email: [CovidVaccineClinicsLTCF@CVSHealth.com](mailto:CovidVaccineClinicsLTCF@CVSHealth.com)
    - **Walgreens Contact Information:** <https://www.walgreens.com/topic/findcare/long-term-care-facility-covid-vaccine.jsp>; Email: [immunizeltc@walgreens.com](mailto:immunizeltc@walgreens.com)

### **COVID-19 Vaccine Questions & Answers**

**Q:** I have staff who have asked what the purpose of the vaccine is, if they still need to wear PPE, test twice a week and quarantine if exposed. They assumed getting the vaccine would mean going back to normal. What can we tell them?

**A:** The vaccine protects the person who receives it against symptomatic infection. We're not sure if it prevents spreading asymptotically. At this time, staff need to continue to protect themselves from others by masking and PPE. CDC has communicated that they may change testing frequency and may not require a quarantine period if exposed for those that are vaccinated in the future, but we are awaiting further guidance.

**Q:** Is it necessary to continue getting tested twice a week after receiving the COVID-19 Vaccine? Are antigen tests acceptable?

**A:** Yes, all staff will need to continue to be tested with the same frequency as currently required even after completing the second dose of the vaccine. CDPH is following CDC's guidance on this. As more information is learned and guidelines are updated and reevaluated, modifications to testing frequency will be communicated. CDC has stated that they may have forthcoming recommendations that may change testing frequency for vaccinated HCP, but official guidance has not been released. Also, antigen tests are acceptable for routine testing of asymptomatic HCWs as long as they are tested regularly. Follow testing guidelines at: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/CDPH%20Document%20Library/AFL-20-53-Attachment-01.pdf>

**Q:** If someone receives their 1st COVID vaccine and contracts COVID 8 days later can they receive the 2nd dose as scheduled?

**A:** They can get the second dose as soon as they have recovered and have met the criteria to end isolation.

**Q:** Our facility currently has an outbreak. Walgreens decided to postpone vaccination of staff and residents. Why did they have to postpone? Can't they vaccinate our green and yellow zone residents and staff?

**A:** CDC and CDPH recommend that vaccine clinics should not be postponed if at all possible, even in a facility that has an outbreak. There may be logistic concerns that need to be considered that would delay the vaccines (such as response testing starting, and cohorting concerns). Green unexposed residents should be vaccinated. Yellow zone residents that have been exposed can also be vaccinated with the use of proper IP procedures. Walgreens has said that their pharmacist staff do not have N9s, and therefore cannot enter the yellow zone. However, in some cases, the yellow zone resident is brought into the hallway wearing a face mask; in that case the pharmacist can administer the vaccine in the hallway with appropriate a face mask and face shield (N95 is preferred). Vaccines can be done in a common area for yellow zone residents. On the other hand, CVS has said that they do have N95s for their staff, therefore, they are able to enter yellow zones to give vaccines to residents in their rooms.

**Q:** How do we get the vaccine for new admissions after our three clinics are done?

**A:** We need to get this question addressed by our CDPH immunization colleagues that are working hard to set up resources to provide vaccines ongoing following the three clinics. Contact your local public health department to see if they have solutions in mind.

**Q:** Is the 2nd dose different from the first dose?

**A:** To our knowledge, we are not aware of the first dose being different from the second dose. Just ensure that the second dose is the same formula as the first dose (example: Pfizer to Pfizer; Moderna to Moderna)

**Q:** Elderly residents in the community are calling our SNF with the request to be vaccinated. In one case they said that CVS referred them to our facility. Can we vaccinate elderly community members at our clinic?

**A:** We don't believe so SNFs can vaccinate elderly community members. SNFs are authorized for inpatient care and to dispense vaccines for staff and residents. SNFs are not approved to offer outpatient services to the community. There may be opportunities to help your community (i.e. offer space to distribute vaccines). Refer to guidelines from your local public health department.

**Q:** Is the COVID vaccine a yearly vaccine like the flu vaccine?

**A:** We don't know the answer to that question yet. We are learning more about the duration of protection.

**Q:** Is the vaccine safe for lactating mothers?

**A:** We recommend consulting with your regular healthcare provider. The American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) task force does not recommend withholding the vaccine from patients who are planning to conceive, who are currently pregnant, or who are lactating. These recommendations are in line with those of the Advisory Committee for Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the U.S. Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC), the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM). <https://www.asrm.org/globalassets/asrm/asrm-content/news-and-publications/covid-19/covidtaskforceupdate11.pdf>

**Q:** What are the recommendations for short term residents who have received the first dose of the vaccine, but no longer are in the SNF or TCU for their second dose?

**A:** Nationally, we have heard that some nursing homes are taking the initiative to have their discharged residents come back to the facility for the second dose. Other facilities are treating it like any other post discharge follow up appointment. The nursing home needs to communicate to the resident that they are due for their second dose and that they should contact their healthcare provider and/or CVS/Walgreens or local health department, depending on who administered the first dose. For TCUs, consult with your hospital, pharmacy partners and local public health department to see if there are options.

**Q:** If there are vaccines available, does CDPH recommend giving the vaccine to recently recovered COVID-19 individuals? Should we wait 60-days after an individual recovers to ensure the natural immunity process takes place?

**A:** CDC recommends giving the vaccine to recently recovered patients if there is availability. There is no need to wait 60 or 90 days. There is no information that we have seen that says that the vaccine interferes with the natural immunity process. The only reason to wait 90 days is if there is limited vaccine supply because recently recovered individuals have immunity.

### **CDPH Infection Preventionist Training Questions & Answers**

**Q:** Is the CDPH infection preventionist training required annually?

**A:** Yes, it's required annually. CDPH is one of the options for annual training and is an initial basics class that is more California centered compared to other trainings. There are other acceptable online courses, such as the CMS and CDC IP trainings. The annual requirement per year is 10 hours of IP training/education. There are other 1-hour courses that can be taken to add up to the 10-hour requirement. View AFL 20-84 <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-84.aspx>

**Q:** I've had employees attend CAHF's infection preventionist trainings in the past. Do the CAHF trainings count to meet the 10-hour annual requirement?

**A:** Yes, CAHF has courses as well, and if the content in the training merges with the content needed in AFL 20-84, then it would count. View AFL 20-84 <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-84.aspx>

**Q:** If we sign up for the CDPH IP training, are we required to also attend the live Friday sessions?

**A:** The Friday Sessions are optional (NOT required). The Friday sessions provide a forum for attendees to interact with the instructors.

### **Other Infection Prevention Questions & Answers**

**Q:** Can you please provide the contact number for the MHOAC?

**A:** <https://emsa.ca.gov/medical-health-operational-area-coordinator/>

**Q:** We heard that we are no longer able to section off our COVID unit with a physical barrier, due to possible feelings of residents feeling "even more isolated". Is that true?

**A:** The use of physical barriers to section off cohort areas is dependent upon whether you can prevent cross contamination without them. For facilities with high populations of demented residents that have difficulty keeping them from moving into the red cohort it has been a viable solution, but if cross contamination can be managed without the barriers that is preferable.

**Q:** Can you discuss the plastic barriers used to separate the COVID unit? How can we replace the barrier so it does not interfere with the air flow?

**A:** Any barrier would affect the air flow. No way around that. It would be prudent to determine airflow directionality so that the red zone is not at the beginning of the run for the HVAC. Smoke tests around the barrier will give you indication of which direction the air is flowing. Pressure relations can be managed but require HVAC expertise to develop and implement.

**Q:** If someone has COVID symptoms two days prior to testing positive, when do you start the 10 days isolation? The day the test was done, or the day symptoms started?

**A:** You would use the date of symptom onset to start the 10-day isolation. If the individual is asymptomatic, isolation should start once you receive the positive specimen.

**Q:** If our facility is on response driven testing with a county positivity rate that requires us to do twice a week testing of HCP, do we do twice a week testing for our residents too?

**A:** For nursing homes in a county that has a high positivity rate that requires testing HCP twice a week, the residents do not need to be tested if there is not an outbreak, signifying that the facility is doing routine screening testing of their HCP twice a week. However, if that same nursing home has an outbreak, then residents do need to be tested, signifying that the facility is in response testing mode. We recommend testing



residents every 3-7 days. Every 3-4 days is ideal; but you can do every 7 days if necessary. Testing guidance can be found at: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/CDPH%20Document%20Library/AFL-20-53-Attachment-01.pdf>

**Q:** Can antigen tests be used for response testing?

**A:** Antigen tests can be used in response testing and are especially helpful early in an outbreak to rapidly get information on who is positive. During an outbreak, if a resident tests positive, no confirmatory PCR test is needed. However, if the resident tests negative, the result needs to be confirmed with a follow up PCR test.

**Q:** What is a COVID-19 Cocktail?

**A:** The COVID Cocktail came from Paul Marik, MD, Professor of Internal Medicine and Chief of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS). It is a protocol he created based on his accumulation of knowledge over his 30-year medical career to reinforce the immune system and help protect vulnerable individuals, such as those over age 60 with high risk medical conditions. It involves Vitamin C, Quercetin, Zinc, Melatonin, and Vitamin D3. The collection of supplements are mostly safe, but the data is limited. For more information visit:

[https://www.evms.edu/covid-19/covid\\_care\\_for\\_clinicians/](https://www.evms.edu/covid-19/covid_care_for_clinicians/)

<https://www.evms.edu/pulse/archive/vitamincocktailmayhelpprotectagainstcovid-19.php>.

EVMS Critical Care COVID-19 Management Protocol:

[https://www.evms.edu/media/evms\\_public/departments/internal\\_medicine/Marik-Covid-Protocol-Summary.pdf](https://www.evms.edu/media/evms_public/departments/internal_medicine/Marik-Covid-Protocol-Summary.pdf)

**Q:** How long do we need to retain staff screening logs? 1 year? 7 years? 30 years?

**A:** At this time, consider screening logs to be medical records under Cal/OSHA's Access to Employee Exposure and Medical Records (AAEMR) standard, so retain staff screening logs for the duration of each worker's employment, plus 30 years. To reduce paperwork burden, many nursing homes are scanning the logs. The Fed/OSHA's guidance clearly states that an employee prepared COVID-19 screening log does not constitute a medical record under the AEEMR standard, however, Cal/OSHA hasn't published any guidance on its AEEMR standard. Therefore, to error on the side of caution, we recommend that an employer should continue to maintain employee screening responses in a restricted folder/location dedicated to responses until Cal/OSHA publishes guidance consistent with Fed/OSHA guidance.