



CORONAVIRUS
DISEASE 2019

(COVID-19)

WEEKLY UPDATE

LONG-TERM CARE AND RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES

Friday, February 5, 2021

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

Vaccinations continue to roll out across the County in long-term care facilities. The Pharmacy Partnership Program with CVS and Walgreens is still being implemented in many facilities. The County of San Diego, along with partners such as County CalFire, Champions for Health, and heal Physicians' Group continue to work together to provide on-site vaccinations. For off-site vaccinations, appointments for staff and ambulatory residents can be made at County vaccination community sites, super stations, and sites coordinated by partners such as UC San Diego Health, Sharp Healthcare, and Rady Children's Hospital. Please visit [County COVID-19 Vaccination Sites & Appointments](#) to learn more. **It is recommended to use a browser other than Internet Explorer to complete your registration.** This webpage is updated frequently. Please check back regularly if no appointments are available.

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

- **"COVID-19 and Its Mental Health Impact on Older Persons"**- free CEU credit virtual seminar, Thursday, February 18, 2021, 11:00 AM. Presented by Dr. Andrew Rosenzweig, geriatric psychiatrist, specializing in the treatment of older adults in long-term care facilities.
- **CDPH Healthcare-Associated Infections Program: Infection Preventionist Training for Skilled Nursing Facilities**; online 14-hour, self-paced course that must be completed by April 30, 2021.

- **CAHAN, San Diego: Health Advisory #25** (COVID-19 Vaccine Update), including information on **informal and formal caregivers** currently eligible for COVID-19 vaccine
- County of San Diego COVID-19 Vaccine Community Conversation Toolbox
- Provider Information Notice (PIN) announcing an Informational Call for all Adult and Senior Care Program Licensees on **“Preventing COVID-19 in Adult and Senior Care Facilities: Next Steps After Vaccination”** on Wednesday, February 17, 2021. Panelists will discuss new strains of COVID-19, vaccine information updates, unvaccinated new residents and staff, and plans for safely reopening (**PIN 21-08-ASC**)
- PIN to All Adult and Senior Care Program Licensees and other interested parties to participate in a survey regarding informational calls (**PIN 21-07-ASC**)
- PIN to all CCLD Providers and Licensees regarding updates to the implementation of *Guardian* (**PIN 21-02-CCLD**)

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. Please email us at moc.logs.hhsa@sdcountry.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

FREE CEU CREDIT*

COVID-19 and Its Mental Health Impact on Older Persons

Thursday, February 18, 2021
at 11 AM PT | 12 PM MT | 1 PM CT | 2 PM ET

The COVID-19 pandemic is arguably the greatest public health disaster of the past 100 years. In addition to the tremendous loss of life and morbidity caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus itself, the mental health effects of the pandemic are only beginning to be understood. This program focuses on key aspects of the pandemic on older adults' mental health, including social isolation, loneliness, depression and suicidal behaviors.

Participants in this web seminar will be able to:

- Explore the mental health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on seniors.
- Understand and explore the differences between social isolation and loneliness and their role in health and well-being.
- Discuss strategies for preventing the detrimental effects of loneliness and social isolation.
- Use a case example to explore risk factors and resiliency factors in prolonged grief disorder and potential association with COVID-19.

About the Presenter:
Andrew S. Rosenzweig, MD, MPH, is a board certified and fellowship trained geriatric psychiatrist who specializes in the treatment of older adults in long-term care facilities. Since 2011, Dr. Rosenzweig has been Chief Medical Officer of Forefront Telecare, the national leader in telehealth living behavioral specialists to healthcare facilities. Through Forefront's videoconferencing technology, he also treats residents at a skilled nursing facility in Minnesota and psychiatric inpatients at a geropsych unit in rural Kansas.

*Webinar CEU credit changes will begin September 20, 2020, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. CEU credit for mental and behavioral health professionals will be awarded for any professional development activity that is approved for CEU credit. This change is due to the fact that the American Psychological Association (APA) has approved CEU credit for all CEU activities in addition to CEU credits approved for all APA webinars.

Register today for the **FREE** webinar at
<https://rightlink.com/mental-health>

Right at Home
In Home Care & Assistance

For more information, please contact us at
760-752-2888 | RAIN@RIGHTCOUNTY.COM
330 Via Vera Cruz, Ste. 201 | San Marcos, CA
Optional License #234700004

COVID-19 and Its Mental Health Impact on Older Persons

Webinar Hosted by Right at Home

Thursday, February 18, 2021

11:00 AM

NEW! In addition to the tremendous loss of life and morbidity caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the mental health effects of the pandemic are only beginning to be understood. This program focuses on key aspects of the pandemic on **older adults' mental health**, including

[Register Here](#)

social isolation, loneliness, depression, and suicidal behaviors. Presented by Dr. Andrew Rosenzweig, geriatric psychiatrist, specializing in the treatment of **older adults in long-term care facilities**.

Please see flyer attached titled
“RAH_CEU_Webinar_February_Flyer_SM”



Healthcare-Associated Infections Program

Infection Preventionist Training for Skilled Nursing Facilities

Online Course

NEW! [CDPH Healthcare-Associated Infections Program](#) is offering a 14-hour self-paced online course is open to the first 100 participants. Suggested audience are persons responsible for infection prevention and control such as licensed practical nurses, registered nurses, and others working in or with oversight for infection prevention in a **Skilled Nursing Facility**. The course must be completed by April 30, 2021. Contact HAI Program at HAIProgram@cdph.ca.gov.

Please see flyer attached titled “IP_TrainingSNF”



CAHAN Health Advisory Updates & Public Health Orders

NEW! California Health Alert Network (CAHAN), San Diego

Health Advisory Update #25: COVID-19 Vaccine Update (February 2, 2021)

Key Messages:

- Due to limited vaccine supply, approved dose allocation may not reflect the amount requested by providers.
- The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and County of San Diego have clarified [priority groups](#) to receive COVID-19 vaccine in Phase 1A. **Prioritized persons include formal and informal caregivers to elderly and people with disabilities.**

(Guidance is provided on further specifics for these caregivers in the full CAHAN advisory attached to this email).

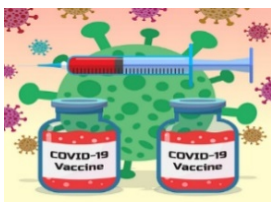
- Providers should monitor the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Clinical Considerations webpage](#) for frequently updated national guidance on COVID-19 vaccination.
- A recent poll of San Diego residents highlights the critical role physicians, nurses, and medical researchers play as trusted messengers of information and guidance on COVID-19 vaccination.
- Resources and materials are available [locally](#) and from CDC for providers to use while engaging with patients on COVID vaccination, such as the [Talking to Recipients about COVID-19 Vaccines webpage](#) and Vaccination Communication and Recipient Education Toolkits for healthcare facilities and providers.

Please find PDF attached titled “CAHAN 02_02_2121”

Check out [CAHAN San Diego](#) for more information, including current alerts and how to subscribe for notifications.

San Diego County Public Health Order (1/25/2021) Click [here](#).

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



COVID-19 Vaccine Resources for Long-Term Care Facilities

UPDATED! Vaccine eligibility currently includes healthcare personnel, others in [Phase 1A](#) (Tiers 1-3), and those **65 and older** (Phase 1B, Tier 1). Doctors, pharmacists, and other healthcare providers may administer vaccinations if they have doses available.

CDPH has identified [additional Phase 1A priority groups](#) to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. This includes both **formal and informal caregivers** to elderly and people with disabilities.

When **formal caregivers**, including private duty caregivers, present for vaccination, documentation such as paystubs or timesheets from their employers or in-home supportive services AND a photo ID should be accepted as proof of eligibility.

Informal caregivers are [defined](#) by the CDC as an unpaid family member or other person who regularly aids and supervises the daily care of an elderly or disabled person, but need not live in the same house. As **informal caregivers** are a broad category, the County of San Diego permits certain forms of documentation at County and County-partnered vaccination sites to

allow for reasonable levels of proof by the simplest method and recommend other providers use the same criteria. **Please see attached CAHAN (page 1-2) for details on documentation.**

Visit the County [COVID-19 Vaccine webpage for appointments](#). Please check back regularly if there are no appointments available.

Phase 1A-Tier 1 Vaccinating NOW*

- Acute care, psychiatric, and **correctional facility hospitals***
- Skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, and similar settings for older or medically vulnerable individuals
 - Include residents in these settings as recommended for Phase 1A by ACIP
- Paramedics, EMTs, and others providing emergency medical services
- Dialysis centers
- Behavioral health residential facilities
- Vaccinators

Phase 1A-Tier 2 Vaccinating NOW*

- Intermediate care, for persons who need non-continuous nursing supervision, and supportive care
- Home healthcare and in-home supportive services
- Community health workers, including promotoras
- Public health field staff
- Primary care clinics, including Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Centers, correctional facility clinics, and urgent care clinics
- Behavioral health non-residential or outpatient facilities

Phase 1A-Tier 3 Vaccinating NOW*

Other settings and healthcare personnel not identified in Phase 1A-Tier 1 or Phase 1A-Tier 2, including:

- Specialty clinics, **laboratory workers****, dental/oral health clinics, pharmacy, and **others**.

Phase 1B Vaccinating NOW**

- **1B-Tier 1:**
 - Persons aged 65 years and older

[Click here to see the list for “others”](#). For example, this includes Adult Day/Health Program Staff; Ancillary staff at long-term care facilities, such as transport, consulting specialists, dentists; Formal and informal caregivers for elderly and people with disabilities, including private duty caregivers and nursing aides caring for the elderly in their homes; and many more.

Things to Know Before You Go...

1. 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.*

2. 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.
3. You will be required to **wear a mask** and adhere to **social distancing** guidelines for the duration of the visit.
4. 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.

NEW! 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.

- Both mRNA vaccines require a 2nd dose: Pfizer at 21 days and Moderna at 28 days
- The second dose should NOT be administered any sooner than 21 days (Pfizer) or 28 days (Moderna)
- The second dose of both mRNA vaccines may 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

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.

Letter to Skilled Nursing Facilities, General Acute Care Hospitals, and Acute Psychiatric Hospitals: [AFL 21-08](#) – January 29, 2021

This AFL provides health care facilities with updated guidance on exposure risk assessment and the duration of quarantine for COVID-19 exposed HCP working in hospitals and Skilled Nursing Facilities and SNF residents.

Letter to Skilled Nursing Facilities and General Acute Care Hospitals: [AFL 21-07](#) – January 24, 2021

This AFL notifies skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) and general acute care hospitals (GACHs) that have a temporary waiver of staffing requirements that they must maintain efforts to increase staffing levels and return to the required staffing levels.

[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.

NEW! [PIN 21-08-ASC](#) (February 3, 2021) announces an upcoming **Informational Call** on Wednesday, February 17, 2021, 1:15 PM - 2:55 PM, regarding **Preventing COVID-19 in Adult and Senior Care Facilities: Next Steps After Vaccination**. Please have staff join this call.

NEW! [PIN 21-07-ASC](#) (February 2, 2021) invites Adult and Senior Care facility licensees, staff, and other interested parties to participate in a **survey** related to monthly Adult and Senior Care Program Informational Calls.

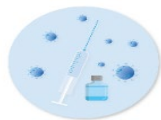
NEW! [PIN 21-02-CCLD](#) (February 2, 2021) announces updates to the implementation of *Guardian* to all Providers and Licensees.

[PIN 21-06-ASC](#) (January 26, 2021) provides updated guidance regarding the discontinued use of decontaminated N95 filtering facepiece respirators, including the discontinuation of use of the Battelle Critical Care Decontamination System that facilities may have previously enrolled in. This PIN supersedes PIN 20-20-ASC in its entirety.

[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.

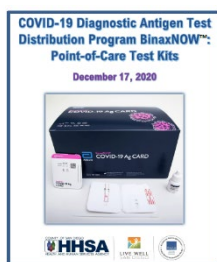
- [Flu vaccines available at County of San Diego Public Health Centers](#)
- [Champions for Health offers free flu vaccines throughout the County](#)



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 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 with Training Table 1.27.21 (see PDF attachment)**
- 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	LOGS.TESTING.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov
Electronic Reporting of Test Results	CoSD PUBLIC HEALTH Electronic Reporting On-boarding Team	Epi-CDReporting.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov
CLIA related questions	CDPH Laboratory Field Services	Call 510-620-3800 or LFSCC@cdph.ca.gov
Infectious Waste Disposal	Department of Environmental Health	Hazardous Materials Duty Desk at (858) 505-6880 Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 5 pm.
Training	Abbott (Manufacturer)	ts.scr@abbott.com or call 1-800-257-9525. Training videos can be found here .

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](#).



Upcoming Telebriefings



**Thursday,
February 11
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](#)



**Friday,
February 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** 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](#).



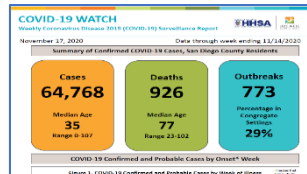
CDC Infection Control Resources

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.





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COVID-19

and Its Mental Health Impact on Older Persons

Thursday, February 18, 2021
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The COVID-19 pandemic is arguably the greatest public health disaster of the past 100 years. In addition to the tremendous loss of life and morbidity caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus itself, the mental health effects of the pandemic are only beginning to be understood. This program focuses on key aspects of the pandemic on older adults' mental health, including social isolation, loneliness, depression and suicidal behaviors.

Participants in this web seminar will be able to:

- ▶ Explore the mental health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on seniors.
- ▶ Understand and explore the differences between social isolation and loneliness and their role in health and well-being.
- ▶ Discuss strategies for preventing the detrimental effects of loneliness and social isolation.
- ▶ Use a case example to explore risk factors and resiliency factors in prolonged grief disorder and potential association with COVID-19.



About the Presenter:

Andrew S. Rosenzweig, M.D., M.P.H., is a board certified and fellowship trained geriatric psychiatrist who specializes in the treatment of older adults in long-term care facilities. Since 2011, Dr. Rosenzweig has been Chief Medical Officer of Forefront Telecare, the national leader in telehealth linking behavioral specialists to healthcare facilities. Through Forefront's videoconferencing technology, he also treats residents at a skilled nursing facility in Minnesota and psychiatric inpatients at a geropsych unit in rural Kansas.

*ASWB CE Credit Changes 2018: Beginning September 25, 2018, ASA will no longer be able to issue ASWB CE credits for recorded web seminar attendance. You can only claim ASWB CE credit if you watch the webinar live. We apologize for any inconvenience. This change is due to ASWB ACE Provider distance learning requirements. The webinar is designed for professional referral sources and family caregivers. Eligible healthcare professionals can claim ONE FREE CEU credit within one month of completion of the webinar. This web seminar is approved for AOTA contact hours in addition to CE Credits approved for all ASA web seminars.

Register today for the
FREE webinar at

<https://rahlink.com/mental-health>

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Optional License #334700004

HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS (HAI) PROGRAM

Infection Preventionist Training for Skilled Nursing Facilities Online Course

Cohort 1 – Open to the first 100 participants

Registration Opens: Monday, February 01, 2021

Course Closes: Friday, April 30, 2021

Please register via Learning Stream link provided in the SNF IP Online Course Flyer (PDF)

Course Description:

This 14-hour self-paced course is designed for healthcare professionals to work around their schedule and does not have to be completed in one session. This course must be completed within the cohort dates. If not completed by April 30, 2021 the participant will have to register for the next cohort.

This online course provides practical guidance for implementing an infection prevention program in a skilled nursing facility (SNF) using evidence-based guidelines for preventing healthcare-associated infections (HAI) including central line associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI), *Clostridioides difficile* infection (CDI), catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI), COVID-19, and pneumonia. Students will learn how to measure staff adherence to infection prevention care practices and educate and provide feedback to staff. Students will also learn how to use their facility HAI data to focus infection prevention strategies, conduct an outbreak investigation, and how to implement the essential activities to prevent employee infections.

There is no cost to attend the course; preregistration is required. CEUs will be granted to those who complete the entire course (no partial credit will be issued) and pass the post test for each module (no partial credit will be issued).

Suggested Audience:

Persons responsible for infection prevention and control such as licensed practical nurses, registered nurses, and others working in or with oversight for infection prevention in a SNF.

Primary Objectives:

At the completion of this course, the participant will be able to:

- Discuss the most important care practices for preventing CLABSI, CDI, HAI, pneumonia, CAUTI, and COVID-19
- List evidence-based sources for infection prevention recommendations
- Discuss principles of infection surveillance and other core disciplines such as microbiology, cleaning/sterilization/disinfection, care of the environment, antibiotic stewardship, and employee health
- Describe how to analyze and use HAI data to focus infection prevention activities

- Describe national, state, and local regulatory bodies that oversee infection prevention and HAI public reporting

California Department of Public Health/HAI Program approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider # 17280, for 14 contact hours.

Contact HAI Program at HAIProgram@cdph.ca.gov

Page Last Updated : January 29, 2021



To: CAHAN San Diego Participants

Date: February 2, 2021

From: Public Health Services

Health Advisory Update #25: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Updates

Key Messages

- Due to limited vaccine supply, approved dose allocation may not reflect the amount requested by providers.
- The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and County of San Diego have clarified [priority groups](#) to receive COVID-19 vaccine in Phase 1A. Prioritized persons include formal and *informal* caregivers to elderly and people with disabilities. Guidance is provided below on further specifics for these caregivers.
- Providers should monitor the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [Clinical Considerations webpage](#) for frequently updated national guidance on COVID-19 vaccination.
- A recent poll of San Diego residents highlights the critical role physicians, nurses, and medical researchers play as trusted messengers of information and guidance on COVID-19 vaccination.
- Resources and materials are available [locally](#) and from CDC for providers to use while engaging with patients on COVID vaccination, such as the [Talking to Recipients about COVID-19 Vaccines webpage](#) and Vaccination Communication and Recipient Education Toolkits [for healthcare facilities and providers](#).

Situation

• **Limited Vaccine Supply**

- Provider participation in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program is greatly appreciated as a vital service to public health. Requests for vaccine are reviewed and doses are being allocated as they become available. Unfortunately, the amount allocated to the region by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is far less than what was requested by local providers. Due to limited vaccine supply, approved allocations may not reflect the amount requested by providers. All requests are reviewed and vaccine is distributed with a focus on health equity and in line with recommendations set forth by the County's [Covid-19 Vaccine Clinical Advisory Group](#). The County of San Diego (County) thanks all providers for their continued support in immunizing San Diegans with COVID-19 vaccines. The County intends to fulfill requests for vaccines as soon as supply is available from the state.

• **Documentation at Vaccination Sites**

- Vaccine eligibility currently includes healthcare personnel (Phase 1A, Tiers 1-3) and those aged [65 years and older](#) (Phase 1B, Tier 1).
- CDPH has identified [additional Phase 1A priority groups](#) to receive COVID-19 vaccine. This includes both *formal* and *informal* caregivers to elderly and people with disabilities.
- When **formal caregivers**, including private duty caregivers, present for vaccination, documentation like paystubs or timesheets from their employer or in-home supportive services AND a photo ID should be accepted as proof of eligibility.
- Informal caregivers are [defined](#) by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as an unpaid family member or other person who regularly aids and supervises the daily care of an elderly or disabled person, but need not live in the same house. As **informal caregivers** are a broad category, the County

permits the following forms of documentation at County and County-partnered vaccination sites to allow for reasonable levels of proof by the simplest method and recommend other providers use the same criteria. This documentation includes:

- Letter from the [San Diego Regional Center](#) for caregivers of their clients.
 - If an individual presents to the provider with a letter from the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS), they should be **instructed to contact their “case worker” or “service coordinator” at the Regional Center.**
 - The Regional Center staff will provide them with a personalized version of the letter that identifies the family member as an informal caregiver.
 - They can present the *personalized* letter as evidence of their eligibility for Phase 1A Tier 2 at any vaccination location.
- Letter from the provider of the person receiving care stating that the caregiver is an informal caregiver.
 - If the patient is not associated with the Regional Center, the provider may use their clinical judgement to determine that a family member is an informal caregiver.
 - Providers may write a letter of support for those individuals, as they see fit, but are under no obligation to do so.
 - When a letter is provided, use the term “informal caregiver” for clarity in establishing eligibility for Phase 1A vaccination.
- Some individuals may still attempt to be recognized as informal caregivers without documentation and there may be some inconsistency at vaccination locations in whether they are offered a vaccine.

- **Updated CDC Guidance**

- The CDC [Clinical Considerations on COVID-19 Vaccination webpage](#) is frequently updated. On January 21, 2021, CDC [provided new guidance](#) including:
 - mRNA COVID-19 vaccines can safely be given to persons with evidence of a prior symptomatic or asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection. Vaccination must be deferred until the criteria to discontinue isolation have been met and the person has recovered from acute symptoms (if present) and after 90 days, if antibody passive antibody treatment was administered. While there is no recommended minimum interval between infection and vaccination, **while vaccine supply remains limited**, persons with recent documented acute SARS-CoV-2 infection may choose to temporarily delay vaccination, if desired, recognizing that the risk of reinfection, and therefore the need for vaccination, may increase with time following initial infection.
 - If the second dose of a vaccine must be given after the recommended date (i.e., 21 days, Pfizer-BioNTech; 28 days, Moderna), it should be given as soon as possible; scheduling administration up to 6 weeks (42 days) after the first dose is acceptable. If the second dose is administered beyond 6 weeks, there is no need to restart the series.
 - mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are not interchangeable, and the safety and efficacy of a mixed product series has not been studied so providers should make every effort to determine which vaccine product was received at first dose. However, if the first-dose vaccine product cannot be determined or is no longer available, any available mRNA COVID-19 vaccine may be administered at a minimum interval of 28 days. When two doses of different mRNA COVID-19 vaccine products are administered, no additional doses of either product are recommended.
 - mRNA COVID-19 vaccines may be administered to persons who have received injectable dermal fillers who have no other contraindications to vaccination. No additional precautions are needed. However, these persons should be advised to contact their provider if they develop swelling at or near the site of dermal filler following vaccination which has been infrequently observed.

- **County Survey**

- The County recently commissioned a survey on perceptions of the COVID-19 vaccine. The survey found the following and highlights are also [here](#):
 - Over 95% of a representative sample of San Diego residents indicated awareness of the vaccine.
 - 72% of residents reported being likely to take the vaccine, while 25% of residents reported being unlikely to take it.
 - Higher percentages of those reporting being unlikely to take the vaccine were in certain groups: 36% of African Americans, 24% of those under age 50, 26% of those at low risk for a poor outcome from contracting COVID, and 26% of those with lower levels of formal education.
 - Providers are the most trusted messengers of information about the COVID-19 vaccine. Doctors, nurses, and medical researchers are by far the most trusted, indicating that these professionals should be at the forefront of communications about the vaccine.
 - Residents expressed preference in locations for getting the vaccine, most notably their own doctor's office (66%), a pharmacy (41%), or a local medical clinic (33%).
 - Messages that resonated well with respondents were about the vaccine getting us back to normal, emphasizing safety and no-cost availability.

• **Scheduling Resources**

- Information and tools for scheduling COVID vaccination in San Diego County are available on the County [COVID-19 Vaccination Sites & Appointments webpage](#).
 - The County has implemented the CDPH COVID-19 scheduling tool, [MyTurn](#) (Please note: it is recommended to use a browser other than Internet Explorer to complete your appointment registration.)
 - Persons who received their first dose prior to 1/23/2021 at **County managed locations**, will receive a *MyTurn* link within 7 days from their second dose date that will include available dates and locations for them to schedule their second dose.

• **Vaccine-Related Resources**

- The following vaccine-related County, federal, and national resources are available:
 - Patients aged 75 and older **who do not have internet access** can call 2-1-1 San Diego for direct appointment assistance. While 2-1-1 San Diego currently cannot make appointments for those under 75, they are be available for healthcare resource navigation and technological support.
 - Providers can now access the San Diego County [COVID-19 Community Conversations Toolbox](#). It provides information to engage with staffs, patients, or community groups. Here, providers can access a vaccine-specific slide set, which will be updated routinely; Frequently Asked Questions, or FAQs; and handouts to use with patients, such as [COVID-19 Vaccination for 65+ \(Spanish\)](#) and [COVID-19 Vaccination Phases \(Spanish\)](#). Additional handouts and materials will be added as they are finalized.
 - The [CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Communication and Recipient Education Toolkits](#) offers materials for provider use.
 - New England Journal of Medicine has a [Frequently Asked Questions page](#) for clinicians.

Actions Requested

1. Providers administering vaccines should:
 - Continue to vaccinate patients in Phase 1A and those [65 years and older](#) (Phase 1B Tier 1).
 - Be aware of Phase 1A [clarifications](#) and acceptable documentation noted for caregivers of elderly and/or individuals with disabilities.
2. All providers should stay up to date on CDC's [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States](#) (last updated 01/21/2021).

3. All providers should use educational information and resources noted above to engage with their patients and community on vaccines, even if it is not yet their turn. Important San Diego County specific information on vaccination eligibility, documentation, vaccination sites and appointment scheduling ([My Turn](#)) is available on the [County webpage](#). As a trusted messenger, providers can educate and empower their patients to make informed choices and address vaccine hesitancy by countering fear with facts.

Thank you for your continued participation.

CAHAN San Diego

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