



CORONAVIRUS
DISEASE 2019

(COVID-19)

WEEKLY UPDATE

LONG-TERM CARE AND RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES

Friday, March 12, 2021

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

As we mark the one-year milestone of working together to prevent and fight COVID-19, we honor all those who have lost the battle against this disease. We honor the families putting their lives back together. We honor all of the courageous staff at every level working in long-term care facilities. Thank you for your continuous efforts to keep your residents and staff safe and thriving.

Vaccination efforts continue to be an on-going priority for long-term care facilities. The reality is that we have encountered supply issues in the past few weeks that continue to occur. These have impacted our efforts. Many sites and on-site vaccination entities are only able to give 2nd doses or may be rescheduling. We ask for your patience as we wait in these next few weeks for supply to come our way.

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

- **PowerPoint slides** from Long-Term Care Telebriefing on March 11, 2021:
 - Dr. Sayone Thihalolipavan, County of San Diego **COVID-19 Update**
- [CDC Guidance](#) (for the general population) on how fully vaccinated individuals can visit safely with others (March 8, 2021). When a discrepancy exists between federal, state, or county guidance, it is recommended to follow the strictest of the guidelines until further notice.
- [CMS Revised Visitation Guidance for Skilled Nursing Facilities](#) (March 10, 2021)
- **California Department of Public Health All Facilities Letters (AFLs)**:

- [AFL 20-22.6](#) provides Long-Term Care Facilities guidance for limiting transmission of COVID-19, including guidance for visitation
 - [AFL 20-66.1](#) notifies Skilled Nursing Facilities, Distinct Part Skilled Nursing Facilities, End Stage Renal Disease Dialysis Facilities, Chronic Dialysis Clinics of updated guidance for the provision of home dialysis services in a Skilled Nursing Facility
 - [AFL 20-08.1](#) provides General Acute Care Hospitals, Acute Psychiatric Hospitals, Skilled Nursing Facilities guidance on quarantine for health care personnel exposed to COVID-19
- **California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division Provider Information Notices (PINs):**
 - [PIN 21-15-ASC](#) informing all Adult and Senior Care Program Residential Licensees of an **Informational Call Regarding COVID-19: Pandemic Updates and Preventing and Addressing Compassion Fatigue and Caregiver Burnout**, Wednesday, March 17, 2021, 1:15 PM - 2:55 PM
 - San Diego County Coalition for Improving Palliative & End-of-Life Care presents **Dr. Karl Steinberg: Physician Orders for Life Saving Treatment (POLST) & COVID-19**, Wednesday, April 7, 2021, 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM
 - **County of San Diego COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance Program 2021**
 - **Reminder:** Dr. Raymond Chinn and Grace Kang are available to provide an educational session/presentation for your staff and/or residents on vaccine confidence; please email us at COVID-LTC@sdcounty.ca.gov.

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

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

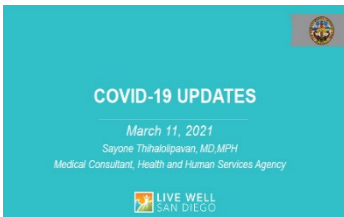
Thank you for your continued efforts and partnership with the County of San Diego!



PowerPoint Slides

Long-Term Care and Residential Care Facilities Telebriefing

March 11, 2021



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

Please see attached PDF titled

"Dr Sayone_CountyCOVID19_Updates_3_11_2021"



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines for Fully Vaccinated Individuals to Safely Visit with Others

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

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



Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Visitation Guidance for Skilled Nursing Facilities

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

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



California Department of Public Health

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

NEW: [AFL 20-22.6](#) Letter to Long-Term Care Facilities – March 8, 2021

Provides Long-Term Care Facilities **guidance for limiting transmission** of COVID-19, including guidance for **visitation**; for detailed information, please see the fact sheet below: [California Department of Public Health Visitation Fact Sheet - Skilled Nursing Facilities](#)

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

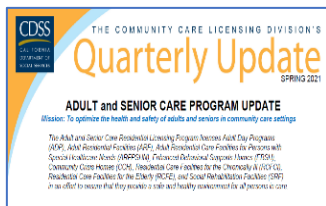
NEW: [AFL 20-08.1](#) Letter to General Acute Care Hospitals, Acute Psychiatric Hospitals, Skilled Nursing Facilities – March 5, 2021
Provides guidance on quarantine for health care personnel exposed to COVID-19.

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



California Department of Social Services

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



CDSS **Spring 2021 Quarterly Updates** is available on their website [here](#).

NEW: [PIN 21-15-ASC](#) (March 10, 2021) to all Adult and Senior Care Programs Residential Licensees and their staff regarding how to login and find the PowerPoint presentation for the:



**Informational Call Regarding COVID-19:
Pandemic Updates and Preventing and**

Addressing Compassion Fatigue and Caregiver Burnout

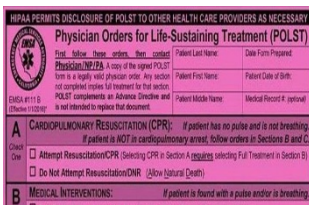
Wednesday, March 17, 2021, 1:15 PM – 2:55 PM

Please see PIN 21-15-ASC above for information on how to join this call.

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

- Increasing Vaccine Confidence
- CDC Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program
- Consent Requirements and Procedures
- Personal Rights and COVID-19 Vaccines
- Facility Staff Acceptance and Refusal
- TB and COVID-19 Vaccines
- Post Vaccine Considerations for Residents and Facility Staff
- And additional resources

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



San Diego County Coalition for Improving Palliative & End-of-Life Care **POLST & COVID-19**

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

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

Guest Speaker: Dr. Karl Steinberg

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

Please [RSVP via Eventbrite](#)



County of San Diego
**COVID-19 Emergency Rental Assistance
Program 2021**

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

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



COVID-19 Helpful Hotlines

- **Public COVID-19 Call Center:** 1-833-422-4255, Monday-Friday 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM; Saturday and Sunday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, for general questions about COVID-19, including vaccines, scheduling vaccination appointments through My Turn, return to school, testing, and more.
- **My Turn Call Center:** 1-833-422-4255 for Californians to sign up for a notification when it's their turn to get a vaccine.
- **Community Care Licensing Division Helpline:** A CCLD clinician will be available Monday – Friday (excluding holidays) during business hours of 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM to answer questions related to infection prevention and control. Additionally, a voicemail system is available for leaving a message after business hours, on weekends, and on holidays. **During business hours:** 1-844-538-8766 (Press #7 when prompted); **After business hours, on weekends, and on holidays:** 1-833-498-2027



Updated Public Health Orders

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

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

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



Monoclonal Antibody Treatment is Available

Reminder:

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

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

Please click on patient flyer links for more information:

[MARC Patient Flyer \(English\)](#), [MARC Patient Flyer \(Spanish\)](#)



California COVID-19 Vaccination Program Update Federal Retail Pharmacy Program Activation

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

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

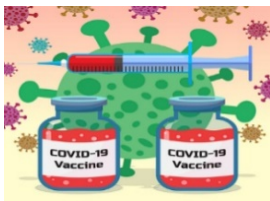
Rite Aid: <https://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/covid-qualifier>

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

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

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

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

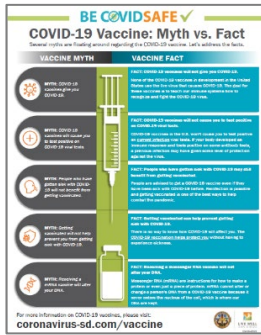


COVID-19 Vaccine Resources for Long-Term Care Facilities

Updated: People who live and work in San Diego County AND are in [Phase 1A or Phase 1B](#) (includes persons age 65 and older) are currently eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. Individuals who fall in [Phase 1C](#) will be eligible beginning Monday, March 15, 2021. Please continue to share the County [COVID-19 Vaccine webpage for appointments](#) with your staff and ambulatory residents.

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

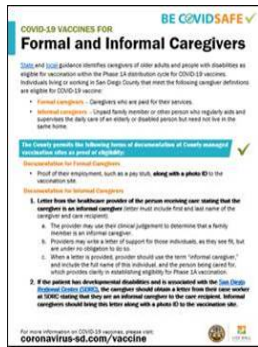
COVID-19 vaccine presentations are available through the *Live Well San Diego* [Speaker's Bureau](#) that provides free presentations delivered by volunteer medical professionals, including doctors and nurses, who are subject matter experts. Fill out an [online interest form](#) on our *Live Well San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



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

Please click link below for the flyer:

[COVID-19 Vaccine – Myth vs. Fact \(English/Spanish\)](https://coronavirus-sd.com/vaccine)



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

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

[COVID-19 Vaccination for Formal and Informal Caregivers \(English\)](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccination for Formal and Informal Caregivers](#)

[\(Spanish/Español\)](#)

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

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

COVID-19 Vaccine Community Conversation Toolbox

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

CDC Vaccine Considerations

Please [click here](#) for some CDC vaccine considerations.

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

Long-Term Care Facility Resources

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

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

The [Vaccination Toolkit for Long-term Care Facilities](#) is available on CDC's website.

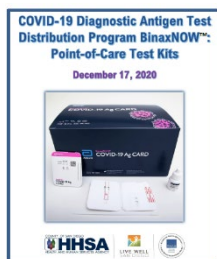
Importance of COVID-19 Vaccination for Residents of Long-term Care Facilities — This guidance has been updated to include long-term care consent information for COVID-19 vaccination. To learn more visit, [Vaccinating Long-Term Care Facility Residents](#).

CDC Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program

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

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

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



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 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

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



Upcoming Telebriefings



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.

**Thursday,
March 25
at 2:00 PM**

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

[Submit Telebriefing Questions](#)

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



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.

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

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

[Submit Telebriefing Questions](#)

Visit the **Older Adult and Disability Sector** [webpage](#).



Ongoing Programs, Services, and Resources



County of San Diego Coronavirus Disease 2019

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

www.coronavirus-sd.com



COVID-19 Testing Information & Resources

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

[Testing in San Diego County webpage.](#)



CDC Infection Control Resources

CDC Guidance and Resources for Infection Control in Facilities

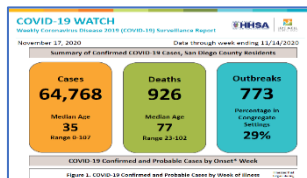
[CLICK HERE](#)



Case Rates by Zip Code

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

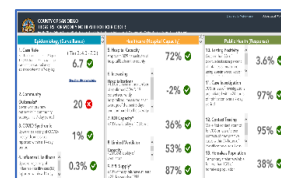
[CLICK HERE](#)



COVID-19 Watch Surveillance Report

County of San Diego COVID-19 Dashboard and Weekly Report

[CLICK HERE](#)



Triggers Dashboard: Testing Positivity Rate

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

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



2-1-1 San Diego

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

[2-1-1 San Diego](#)



Live Well @ Home

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

[CLICK HERE](#)



Questions?

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

COVID-LTC@sdcounty.ca.gov



Stay Connected



For questions related to long-term care and residential care facilities, please email: COVID-LTC@sdcounty.ca.gov.

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



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

