

*Sending on behalf of the County of San Diego,
Long-Term Care and Residential Care Facilities Sector, COVID-19 Response*



October 27, 2021

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

Vaccination is still the main way to reduce your risk of severe sickness or death from COVID-19. However, if you do get infected, monoclonal antibody treatment can help prevent severe symptoms and hospitalization. [Early treatment](#) for COVID-19 is available at the [Monoclonal Antibody Regional Centers \(MARC\)](#)s for persons 12 years of age or older with mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms. [Post-exposure prophylaxis](#) with monoclonal antibodies for persons in close contact with a COVID-19-infected person is available at the MARC at the Clairemont Friendship Center for those who medically qualify. MARC locations are in Vista, Clairemont, Hillcrest and Chula Vista. The Escondido site is no longer operating.

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues into a flu season, vaccination against the flu will help keep you healthy and reduce any further strain on California's hospitals. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommends

the flu vaccine for all Californians 6 months of age and older. Please review the CDPH section below for flu and COVID-19 resources and information. In addition, the CDPH has updated the [Vaccine Eligibility Chart](#) with booster information including newly approved Moderna and J&J. Please note our County vaccine sites are giving out all boosters at this time.

Thank you for taking a few moments to answer a brief survey via [COVID-19 Sector Assessment - Fall 2021 \(smartsheet.com\) link](#) to provide your feedback by October 28 on how we can improve our Long-Term Care Sector efforts. Please choose “Long-term Care Sector” for the first question. We appreciate and value your feedback!

As we enter the holiday season, please find the County of San Diego's **Safe Halloween Recommendations** on the County's materials page [here](#), in addition to a direct [English](#) link or [Spanish](#) link for your reference.

We look forward to seeing you on our **Long-Term Care telebriefing** tomorrow, October 28, 2:00-3:00 PM. After that concludes, there will be another opportunity to hear more important updates during the **Health Professionals telebriefing** from 3:30-4:30 PM. Dr. Mark Sawyer will present COVID-19 vaccine data for children (5-11 years old). If you, your staff, or your residents have young family members, this discussion may be of particular interest. Please see below for login and additional information.

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

- Next Long-Term Care Telebriefing is Thursday, October 28, 2:00-3:00 PM with special focus on Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms and *Candida auris* in long-term care facilities
- Health Professionals Telebriefing with special guest speaker Dr. Mark Sawyer, COVID-19 vaccine data for 5–11-year-olds, Thursday, October 28, 3:30-4:30 PM
- CDPH Vaccine Eligibility Chart

- Health Advisory Update #42: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Update: Expanded Eligibility for COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Doses
- Flu and COVID-19 resources and information
- [PIN 21-20-CCLD](#): Rescission Of Statewide Waivers For Licensing Requirements Related To Tuberculosis (Tb) Testing And Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) Vaccine
- Updated MARC information

For other questions, email COVID-LTC@sdcounty.ca.gov or for more information for long-term care facilities, visit www.coronavirus-sd.com/LTC. Thank you for your continued efforts and partnership with the County of San Diego!

TELEBRIEFINGS



Upcoming Long-Term Care and Residential Care Facilities Sector

Our next telebriefing will be **Thursday, October 28, 2021, 2:00-3:00 PM**

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

[Submit Telebriefing Questions](#)

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS TELEBRIEFING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28TH, 3:30 PM - 4:30 PM



NEW! Dr. Mark Sawyer will present COVID-19 vaccine data for 5–11-year-olds at the Health Professionals telebriefing **this Thursday, October 28th, from 3:30pm to 4:30pm!** Dr. Sawyer is a member of the FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) voting on EUA applications for SARS-CoV-2 vaccines. He also a member of the Western States COVID Vaccine Scientific Safety Review Workgroup.

Option 1- Computer (preferred):

- Click on the following link <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85300447933> using your computer. Meeting ID: 853 0044 7933.
- If you have any difficulties accessing the participant link, use option 2.

Option 2- Phone:

- Call into the meeting using this number: 1 (669) 900-6833 or 1 (346) 248-7799.
- Meeting ID: 853 0044 7933

Email or submit your questions to MCSDCallCenter.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

California Department of Public Health Vaccine Eligibility

UPDATED! Use this chart to help determine which COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for a patient, by age or health conditions. Click here for [PDF printable version](#)



California Health Alert Network (CAHAN) San Diego

NEW! Health Advisory Update #42: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Update: Expanded Eligibility for COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Doses

- After authorization by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have expanded the recommendations for booster doses to include Moderna and Johnson and Johnson/Janssen (J&J) COVID-19 vaccines as well as heterologous (mix and match) dosing.
- A Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) on the recent updates to COVID-19 booster doses was held on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 and will be posted here. To view full details of eligibility, view [10-26-21.pdf \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)

[View all CAHANS](#)



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! Flu and Coronavirus Resources and Information

- CDPH [updated flu education materials for children, child care providers, and workers](#)
- CDPH [Influenza \(Flu\) and Other Respiratory Diseases](#)
- CDPH Video: Do Your Part, Get Your Flu Shot Today
 - [English Version](#)
 - [Spanish Version](#)
- Flu 2021 [Toolkit](#) from CDPH, in partnership with the California Immunization Coalition
- Flu 2021 [seasonal flu vaccination toolkit](#) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

[AFL 21-08](#) to General Acute Care Hospitals, Acute Psychiatric Hospitals, Skilled Nursing Facilities - October 11, 2021

AFL provides health care facilities with guidance on exposure risk assessment and the duration of quarantine for SARS-CoV-2 exposed HCP working in hospitals and SNFs. SNFs should refer to [AFL 20-53.5](#) for guidance on quarantine and testing for potentially exposed SNF residents. This AFL includes guidance on return to work for HCP diagnosed with COVID-19, including strategies to mitigate HCP staffing shortages. This revision includes updated Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance on returning to work during critical staffing shortages.

CDPH has developed a resource for Long-Term Care residents and staff to have continued access to primary series or booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine. The [LTCF COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit](#) provides information on vaccine access options and resources available for your residents and staff. CDPH created a [vaccine booster chart](#) to help determine which COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for a patient, by age or health conditions.

[CDPH COVID-19 Toolkit](#) serves as a one-stop-shop for partners to access materials available for download and sharing in support of outreach and education. This toolkit has numerous videos, social media messages, infographics, handouts, fact sheets, and more.

[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 announces that the [Fall 2021 Quarterly Updates](#) have been published and are available on their [website](#).

NEW! [PIN 21-20-CCLD](#) to All Adult and Senior Care Program Licensees, October 21, 2021

This PIN supersedes [PIN 21-03-CCLD](#), dated February 26, 2021, which informed Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) licensees of the Adult and Senior Care (ASC) and Children's Residential Programs and licensees and providers of the Child Care Program of a statewide waiver for tuberculosis (TB) testing specific to the timing of COVID-19 vaccinations for licensees, providers, and staff. This PIN informs the above-mentioned licensees and providers that this statewide waiver has been rescinded effective October 21, 2021.

[PIN 21-45-ASC](#) to All Adult and Senior Care Program Licensees, September 28, 2021

Provides Adult and Senior Care licensees and their staff updated infection control guidance and holiday safety. [View PowerPoint](#) Slides from the informational call.

[PIN 21-44-ASC](#) to All Adult and Senior Care Program Licensees, September 28, 2021

Notifies all Adult and Senior Care (ASC) licensees of the COVID-19 vaccination requirement for all workers of ASC facilities, pursuant to the State Public Health Officer Order of September 28, 2021. This PIN also provides guidance related to exemptions from the vaccination requirement and recordkeeping requirements of worker vaccination status and exemption status

[PIN 21-43-ASC](#) to All Adult and Senior Care Program Residential Licensees, September 17, 2021

This PIN supersedes [PIN 20-48-ASC](#), dated December 24, 2020, announcing a requirement for licensees of Adult and Senior Care (ASC) facilities to submit a plan for Epidemic Outbreaks, specific to COVID-19 (“Mitigation Plan Report”) by January 24, 2021. It also indicates the required components for a COVID-19 Mitigation Plan Report; a COVID-19 Mitigation Plan Report template; training resources; and outlines enforcement actions. This PIN provides specific updates to the Mitigation Plan Report submission process and links to Mitigation Plan training.

[See the full list of recent PINs](#)



CareStart COVID-19 Antigen Tests

We are pleased to announce that we have officially transitioned from the BinaxNOW Ag. Cards, to the CareStart COVID-19 Antigen POC.

Those who have updated/amended their CLIA (CMS116) to include these CareStart AND notified the LFS website are immediately eligible to start requesting and receiving these tests.

We will continue to distribute both the BinaxNOW and the CareStart for the next two weeks to give facilities/organizations the opportunity to update their CLIA documentation. If you have not done so to avoid delays or gaps in future allocations of testing product please.

- Add/Amend to include the CareStart tests to your CLIA documentation (CMS 116), and
- Notify the [CDPH LFS website](#)

You will need to attest to these two steps before receiving any of the new CareStart Antigen Tests. We have retired the usual links used to order tests in the past.

To request (POC) Antigen tests (BinaxNOW and the new CareStart Antigen Tests), please:

- Complete the [NEW: Point-of Care \(POC\) Antigen Test Interest Notification & Attestation](#)
- Complete the [NEW: Point-of-Care Antigen Test Program follow-up questionnaire](#) for those who have previously received testing products from us.

If you have any questions, email logs.testing.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov



Monoclonal Antibody Treatments

UPDATED! The FDA issued an [Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\)](#) for a monoclonal antibody therapy combination called REGEN-COV, comprised of the casirivimab and imdevimab monoclonal antibodies from Regeneron. This life-saving combination therapy is authorized for the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 in symptomatic patients with positive who are at high risk for progressing to severe COVID-19 disease or hospitalization. [High risk persons](#) include those ≥ 65 years of age, or with a BMI ≥ 25 , or with diabetes, or pregnancy, or who have certain chronic medical conditions.

Rapid Response Teams can conduct on-site administration of the treatment and provide training for Skilled Nursing Facility staff in order for the Skilled

Nursing Facility staff to administer the treatment in the future. Skilled Nursing Facility staff can contact mcsdnursingmabinfusion.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov to request Rapid Response Teams or ask questions.

- [Early treatment](#) for COVID-19 is available at the [Monoclonal Antibody Regional Centers \(MARC\)](#)s for persons 12 years of age or older with mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms.
- [Post-exposure prophylaxis](#) with monoclonal antibodies for persons in close contact with a COVID-19-infected person is available at the MARC at the Clairemont Friendship Center for those who medically qualify.
- **MARC at Vista Community Clinic**
 - Treatment site in Vista open Tuesday through Friday
- **MARC at Clairemont Friendship Center**
 - Treatment and post-exposure prophylaxis site in Clairemont open Monday through Saturday
- **Family Health Centers of San Diego**
 - Treatment sites in Hillcrest and Chula Vista open Monday through Friday

Visit the [Monoclonal Antibody Regional Center webpage](#) for a list of sites and more information.



Federal Retail Pharmacy Program (FRPP) Update on COVID-19 Vaccines

Through the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program (FRPP), the CDC is allocating COVID-19 vaccines directly to enrolled retail and **LTC pharmacies**. Three LTC-specific groups (MHA, Innovatix-PharMerica, and GeriMed) receive federal doses and allocate them to member pharmacies who can then provide vaccines to LTC facilities. Please note, not every LTC pharmacy in California is enrolled in the FRPP. Those not enrolled in the FRPP may enroll as vaccine providers at [myCAvax](#) or LTC pharmacies may enroll under one of the current Group Purchasing Organizations (MHA, Innovatix-PharMerica, and GeriMed) to

receive federal vaccine doses. **To request vaccines from your contracted LTC pharmacy:**

1. Enroll in the San Diego Immunization Registry: <http://www.sdiz.org/clair-sdir/enrollment.html>
2. Contact your pharmacy to determine if they are enrolled in the FRPP.
 - If the LTC pharmacy is enrolled in the FRPP, the pharmacy can subcontract with facilities to also administer the vaccine, and the facility does NOT need to enroll as a vaccine provider.
 - **If the LTC pharmacy is not enrolled in the FRPP, facilities can register to be a vaccinator through** <https://mycavax.cdph.ca.gov/s/>.
3. If your contracted pharmacy cannot assist, you may request assistance from other San Diego LTC pharmacies enrolled in the FRPP:
 - Guardian Pharmacy Services (MHA): cvs@guardianpharmacy.net
 - Omnicare of San Diego: Chadd.Eno@omnicare.com
 - Pharmerica (Innovatix): ImmunizeLTC@pharmerica.com
 - SNP Pharmacy LLC (MHA): vaccines@snp-rx.com

FACILITY RESOURCES AND GUIDANCE

County of San Diego, Public Health Order

CAHAN San Diego

Cal/OSHA and Statewide Industry Guidance on COVID-19

California Department of Social Services, Provider Information Notices

California Department of Public Health, All Facilities Letters

CDC Guidance and Resources for Infection Control in Facilities

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Visitation Guidance



Our mailing address is:

COVID-LTC@sdcounty.ca.gov

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