

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



October 20, 2021

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

As we continue to provide information for your facilities on resources, information and developments pertinent to your facilities, we would like to get your feedback on how we can improve our efforts. The goal of this assessment is to identify how partners and stakeholders are currently benefiting from our work, what challenges your facilities are experiencing during the current stage of the COVID-19 pandemic, and what tools or resources would benefit your facilities in the coming months. Please take a few moments to answer a short assessment via [COVID-19 Sector Assessment - Fall 2021 \(smartsheet.com\)](https://smartsheet.com) link. You will choose “Long-term Care Sector” for the first question. Please complete by October 28th. We greatly appreciate and value your feedback!

The FDA and CDC has provided guidance on who should get either a third or booster dose. This [vaccine booster chart](#) is a reference to help you determine which COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for a patient or health conditions.

Qualified staff and residents can access third doses and boosters through their primary care physicians, pharmacies, or through County sites. Visit our webpage for information on [vaccination locations](#). The [LTCF COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit](#) created by CDPH provides information on vaccine access options and resources available for your residents and staff, including through your LTC pharmacy.

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

- Telebriefing PowerPoint Slides and Recordings:
 - LTC Telebriefing on October 14, 2021
 - Dr. Raymond Chinn, County of San Diego, Medical Consultant, COVID-19 Update
 - Jennifer Wheeler, County of San Diego, LTC Update
 - Denise Powell, Community Care Licensing PIN 21-44-ASC

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](#)



Long-Term Care Sector Telebriefing Slides and

Recording: October 14, 2021

NEW: Dr. Raymond Chinn, County of San Diego Medical Consultant, [COVID-19 Update](#)

NEW: Jennifer Wheeler, County of San Diego, [LTC Update](#)

NEW: Denise Powell, Community Care Licensing, [PIN 21-44-ASC](#)

Recording for this telebriefing is available [here](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus Activity and Guidance for Clinicians

- The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued a health alert with guidance regarding expected continued increases in influenza and respiratory syncytial virus activity (RSV), in addition to SARS-CoV-2.
- Testing for influenza and RSV is recommended, and testing for other respiratory pathogens should be considered, especially in patients with respiratory illnesses who test negative for SARS-CoV-2.
- Vaccination of individuals six months and older against influenza is recommended by CDPH: Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines can be co-administered.
- Clinicians may consider off-season immunoprophylaxis with anti-RSV monoclonal antibody Palivizumab (Synagis®) in high-risk infants and young children.

- Patients should be reminded of the importance of not reporting to work/school while acutely ill, even if they test negative for SARS-CoV-2 [Health Advisory: Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus Activity and Guidance for Clinicians](#)

California Department of Public Health Vaccine Eligibility

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](#)

COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility		Vaccinate All 58			
Use this chart to help determine which COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for a patient, by age or health conditions.					
	Dose	Age: 12-17	18-49	50-64	65+
Pfizer (Comirnaty)	Primary 2-doses	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Additional (3rd) dose for immunocompromised	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Booster dose at least 6 months after 2nd Pfizer dose				✓
	- Long-term care facility resident		✓	✓	
	- Underlying medical condition or increased risk of social inequities		may receive	✓	
- Increased risk of exposure from work or institutional setting		may receive	may receive		
Moderna	Primary 2-doses		✓	✓	✓
	Additional (3rd) dose for immunocompromised		✓	✓	✓
Johnson & Johnson	1 dose		✓	✓	✓

Resources:

- Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup, 9/24/2021
- Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines (CDC)
- Who Is Eligible for a COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot? (CDC)

California COVID-19 Vaccination Program IMM-1396 (10/4/21)



California Department of Public Health

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

[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.

[AFL 21-37](#) to All Facilities - September 22, 2021

This AFL notifies all facilities that a subset of model DE2322 N95 respirator units that were distributed do not meet the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) criteria and should be returned to the manufacturer.

[AFL 21-36](#) to All Facilities - September 17, 2021

This All Facility Letter (AFL) supersedes AFL 20-32.3, and notifies skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) of a temporary waiver of specified regulatory requirements due to the state of emergency related to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak. This AFL temporarily waives specified space conversion requirements until December 31, 2021.

[AFL 21-35](#) to Skilled Nursing Facilities - September 17, 2021

This AFL provides guidance for ADHCs to operate and safely return to in-center services during the COVID-19 pandemic. This AFL also provides recommendations for group activities when all participants are fully vaccinated.

The California Department of Public Health has developed a resource to ensure that Long-Term Care (LTC) residents and staff 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](#).

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

PIN 21-45-ASC provides Adult and Senior Care (ASC) 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 21-19-CCLD](#) to All Adult and Senior Care Program Licensees, All Children's Residential Licensees, Foster Family Agency Approved or Certified Homes, and All Home Care Organization Licensees, September 28, 2021
This PIN informs CCLD licensees of the COVID-19 Provider Relief Fund available through the Federal Department of Health and Human Services. The portal to apply for these funds will open on September 29, 2021.

[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.

[PIN 21-42-ASC](#) to All Adult and Senior Care Program Residential Licensees, September 13, 2021

PowerPoint Slides from informational call with Adult and Senior Care licensees regarding "COVID-19 Updates and Planning for the Upcoming Flu Season during the Pandemic"

[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 newCareStart 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 our Logistics Team at logs.testing.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov



Monoclonal Antibody Treatments

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration 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 results 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.

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): cvrs@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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