

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



October 6, 2021

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

Last week the [Order of the State Public Health Officer](#) mandated a first dose of a one-dose regimen or the second dose of a two-dose regimen by **November 30, 2021**, for all workers who provide services or work in **Adult and Senior Care Facilities** licensed by the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). The mandate for worker vaccinations also included all in-home direct care services workers, including registered home care aides, certified home health aides, and hospice workers among others. See [PIN 21-44-ASC](#) for more details. Please **SAVE-THE-DATE** for a CDSS **Informational Call on Wednesday, 10/13/21 from 1:00-3:00 PM**. A PIN will be released soon with call-in information. In addition, a guest speaker from the local office of Community Care Licensing Division will join us to discuss this new guidance during our upcoming LTC Sector telebriefing on Thursday, 10/14/21 from 2:00-3:00 pm.

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.

While information has helped people stay safe and healthy, incorrect information sometimes increases confusion about health-related issues. Many people are suffering as a result of incorrect information. The County of San Diego has declared medical misinformation a public health crisis and is working to create a space to help you get accurate and reliable information from credible sources. Find credible sources, claims and Facts, FAQs on COVID-19 information at [Evaluating COVID-19 Information](#).

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

- Next Telebriefing for the Long-Term Care Sector will be held Thursday, October 14, 2021, 2:00 - 3:00 PM
- CAHAN San Diego, Health Advisory Update #41: COVID-19 Vaccination for Pregnant People to Prevent Serious Illness, Deaths, and Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes from COVID-19
- CAHAN San Diego, Health Advisory: Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus Activity and Guidance for Clinicians

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 14, 2021, 2:00 - 3:00 PM** and will feature a guest speaker from Community Care Licensing to talk about the new staff vaccination guidance for Adult and Senior Care Facilities.

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

[Submit Telebriefing Questions](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS



NEW! COVID-19 Vaccination for Pregnant People to Prevent Serious Illness, Deaths, and Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes from COVID-19

- In the US, the highest number of COVID-19-related deaths in pregnant people (n=22) in a single month of the pandemic was reported in August 2021.
- COVID-19 vaccination is strongly recommended either before or during pregnancy because the benefits of vaccination outweigh known and potential risks.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a Health Advisory recommending urgent action to increase COVID-19 vaccination among people who are pregnant, recently pregnant (including those who are lactating), who are trying to become pregnant now, or who might become pregnant in the future
- **For more information, visit:**
[COVID-19 Vaccination for Pregnant People to Prevent Serious Illness, Deaths, and Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes from COVID-19](#)



NEW! Health Advisory: 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](#)



Health Advisory Update #40: Coronavirus Vaccine Update: Pfizer Vaccine Booster Dosing

According to the [CDC](#) and the [CDPH](#), COVID-19 vaccine booster shots are available for Pfizer recipients who completed their initial series at least 6 months ago. The following groups *should* get a booster of the Pfizer vaccine:

- People aged 65 years and older
- People aged 18 years and older in long-term care settings
- People aged 50 - 64 years with underlying medical conditions

The following groups *may* receive a booster shot of the Pfizer vaccine, based on their individual benefits and risks:

- People aged 18 - 49 years with [underlying medical conditions](#)
- People aged 18 - 64 years at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting:
 - First responders (healthcare workers, firefighters, police, congregate care staff)
 - Education staff (teachers, support staff, daycare workers)
 - Food and agriculture workers
 - Manufacturing workers
 - Corrections workers
 - U.S. Postal Service workers
 - Public transit workers

- Grocery store workers

For more information, visit:

[Health Advisory Update #40: COVID-19 Vaccine Update: Pfizer Vaccine Booster Dosing](#)

[CDPH Statement on Pfizer Booster](#)

[Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot | CDC](#)

[Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters \(ca.gov\)](#)

Health Advisory: Candida auris detected in San Diego County facilities

- Two patients colonized with Candida auris (C. auris) have recently been identified at two separate San Diego County healthcare facilities.
- C. auris can be difficult to identify and treat. Early detection by screening high risk patients is essential to preventing spread in healthcare facilities.
- Rigorous adherence to infection control and routine use of EPA registered disinfectant effective against C. auris is critical for mitigation.
- Isolates for potential confirmatory testing should be saved.
- Suspected or confirmed C. auris cases identified in San Diego County should be reported to County Epidemiology during business hours Monday to Friday 8AM-5PM within one working day of identification.

For more information, visit:

[Health Advisory: Candida auris detected in San Diego County facilities](#)



VIRTUAL Check Your Mood Day

VIRTUAL Check Your Mood Day is taking place on October 7, 2021, in conjunction with National Depression Screening Day! The purpose of this annual event is to engage and encourage San Diegans to monitor and assess their emotional well-being. Getting screened for depression is an important part of healthcare checkups, similar to getting your blood pressure checked or being screened for heart disease or diabetes. We encourage you to help

promote **FREE** mental health resources, take the online **Check Your Mood** self-assessment, and participate in our social media campaign to raise awareness about mental health. We all play a role in supporting good mental health. How will you support the Check Your Mood campaign this year? Please fill out this short interest form to find out ways you can participate in Check Your Mood 2021. For more information or questions regarding Virtual Check Your Mood Day 2021, please visit www.CheckYourMoodSD.org or email us at checkyourmood@sdcountry.ca.gov



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 21-37](#) 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.

[AFL 21-08.4](#) to General Acute Care Hospitals (GACHs), Acute Psychiatric Hospitals (APHs), Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) - September 9, 2021

This 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, and SNF residents. This revision includes guidance on return to work for HCP diagnosed with COVID-19, including strategies to mitigate HCP staffing shortages.

[AFL 21-34](#) to All Facilities - September 9, 2021

This AFL notifies all facilities of the August 5, 2021 [Public Health Order](#) related to mandatory vaccination for health care workers in identified healthcare settings. This AFL requires HCP to receive COVID-19 vaccination. HCP must ensure they have received either the first dose of a one-dose regimen or their second dose of a two-dose regimen no later than September 30, 2021, unless exempt. Facilities must document HCP COVID-19 vaccination or exemption status by September 30, 2021 to be in full compliance. A [template form](#) containing sample language for documenting vaccine declination under this Order due to medical reasons by your employees is available for your use. There is no requirement to obtain a religious statement from a clergy person if the employee declines due to religious reasons.

[AFL 20-35.5](#) to All Facilities - September 8, 2021

This AFL revision informs all facilities and applicants that the temporary waiver of specified regulatory requirements contained in this AFL are extended until December 31, 2021, in compliance with [Executive Order N-12-21](#) (PDF). This revision informs applicants and certificate holders how to obtain/maintain an active/employable status after the expiration of the listed waivers on December 31, 2021.

[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 21-44-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](#)



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.

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

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.



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/cair-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): cvsr@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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