

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



November 12, 2021

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

Vaccines work! As outlined at [PublicHealthCollaborative.org](https://PublicHealthCollaborative.org), the COVID-19 vaccines continue to be remarkably effective in reducing risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death, including against the delta variant. [CDC data](#) shows that in August 2021, the risk of dying from COVID-19 in the U.S. was more than 11 times greater for unvaccinated people than for fully vaccinated people.

The CDC's clinical guidance advises people to get the same booster as their initial vaccine, but allows people to mix and match (i.e. get a different COVID-19 booster than their initial vaccine) if they have a different preference. See the updated [CDPH Vaccine Eligibility Chart](#) for booster details. Find [vaccine locations and resources](#) for you and your staff's family members, as well as information on additional doses and booster doses. County vaccination sites are providing all boosters at this time.

Vaccination is still the main way to reduce the risk of severe sickness or death from COVID-19; if someone does become 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. Click [here](#) for more information and MARC locations.

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 November 18, 2:00-3:00 PM (a change from the usual second Thursday of the month due to the Veterans Day holiday)
- Health Advisory Update #43: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Update: Pfizer Vaccine Age Indication
- Updated CDPH Vaccine Eligibility Chart
- [AFL 21-39 Notice of Stakeholder Meeting for the Quality and Accountability Supplemental Payment \(QASP\) Program](#)
- [PIN 21-46-ASC: Influenza or "Flu" Novel Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\), Pneumonia and Infection Control Guidance](#)

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

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## TELEBRIEFINGS

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### Upcoming Long-Term Care and Residential Care Facilities Sector

Our next telebriefing will be **Thursday, November 18, 2021, 2:00-3:00 PM**

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

[Submit Telebriefing Questions](#)

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

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### Vaccine Update: Pfizer Vaccine Age Indication

**NEW:** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have approved the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for use in 5–11-year-olds using a different formulation containing 10 µg of antigen in 0.2 mL. The primary series for this group requires two doses spaced 21 days apart. A Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) was held on November 4, 2021 detailing the new ACIP recommendations for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in children 5–11 years old and will be made available.

Read [CAHAN Health Advisory Update #43](#)

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### California Department of Public Health Vaccine Eligibility

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

## COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility



Use this chart to help determine when to give COVID-19 vaccine based on age or health conditions.

Dose	Age: 5-11	12-17	18-49	50-64	65+
<b>Pfizer-Pediatric</b>	<b>Primary 2 doses</b> (21 days apart)				
	✓				
<b>Pfizer-Adol/Adult</b>	<b>Primary 2 doses</b> (21 days apart)				
		✓	✓	✓	✓
	<b>Additional (3rd) dose</b> for immunocompromised at least 28 days after 2nd Pfizer dose				
		✓	✓	✓	✓
	<b>Booster dose</b> of Pfizer or different brand, at least 6 months after 2nd dose of Pfizer				
					✓
			✓	✓	
			may receive	✓	
			may receive	✓	
<b>Moderna</b>	<b>Primary 2 doses</b> (28 days apart)				
			✓	✓	✓
	<b>Additional (3rd) dose</b> for immunocompromised at least 28 days after 2nd Moderna dose				
			✓	✓	✓
	<b>Booster dose</b> of Moderna (half-dose) or different brand, at least 6 months after 2nd dose of Moderna				
			✓	✓	
			may receive	✓	
			may receive	✓	
<b>Johnson &amp; Johnson</b>	<b>Primary 1 dose</b>				
			✓	✓	✓
	<b>Booster dose</b> of J&J or different brand, at least 2 months after primary J&J dose				
			✓	✓	✓

View Related Guidance and Requirements. (Eligibility is subject to change as guidance is updated.)

California COVID-19 Vaccination Program

IMM-1396 (11/9/21)



## 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](mailto:LNCPolicy@cdph.ca.gov)

**NEW!** [AFL 21-39](#) to Skilled Nursing Facilities and Other Interested Stakeholders - November 8, 2021

This AFL notifies skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) and other interested stakeholders that the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) are holding a stakeholder meeting on November 19, 2021 to discuss the reauthorization the QASP Program.

[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](mailto:CCLASCPSanDiegoRO@dss.ca.gov).

**NEW!** [PIN 21-46-ASC](#) to All Adult and Senior Care Program Licensees, November 5, 2021

PIN 21-46-ASC provides information for the prevention, mitigation, and containment of the flu, COVID-19, and pneumonia in Adult and Senior Care facilities based on the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) guidance.

[PIN 21-21 CCLD](#) to All Adult and Senior Care Program Licensees, October 29, 2021

Recommendations of best practices to licensees, providers, persons in care, and families by providing general safety tips as well as advice on specific fall and winter holidays. As COVID-19 variants continue to spread, it is important to maintain safe practices. This information is similar to that in previous PINs regarding celebrating the holidays in a COVID-safe manner but has been updated to reflect new information and provide new resources.

[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

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



## CareStart COVID-19 Antigen Tests

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. 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 [logs.testing.hhsa@sdcountry.ca.gov](mailto:logs.testing.hhsa@sdcountry.ca.gov)

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## Monoclonal Antibody Treatments

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  $\geq 65$  years of age, or with a BMI  $\geq 25$ , 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 [MCSDNursingM\\_MAT.HHSA@sdcountry.ca.gov](mailto:MCSDNursingM_MAT.HHSA@sdcountry.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.

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

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## 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 vaccinators 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](mailto:cvs@guardianpharmacy.net)
  - Omnicare of San Diego: [Chadd.Eno@omnicare.com](mailto:Chadd.Eno@omnicare.com)
  - Pharmerica (Innovatix): [ImmunizeLTC@pharmerica.com](mailto:ImmunizeLTC@pharmerica.com)
  - SNP Pharmacy LLC (MHA): [vaccines@snp-rx.com](mailto: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:**

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