

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



Friday, May 28, 2021

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

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

- **APIC San Diego & Imperial County 2021 Long-Term Care Facility Conference on July 30, 2021**

If you are experiencing vaccine hesitancy from staff or residents at your facility, we have a team comprised of doctors and nurses who are available to provide an educational session/presentation on vaccine effectiveness and confidence. If you would like to request this, please email us at [COVID-LTC@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto: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.

Email us at [moc.logs.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto: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](mailto:COVID-LTC@sdcounty.ca.gov) or visit our webpage at [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!

---

## UPCOMING TELEBRIEFINGS



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

Next telebriefing will be held on **Thursday, June 10, 2:00 - 3:00 PM.**

[Zoom Meeting Link \(click here\)](#)

[Submit Telebriefing Questions \(click here\)](#)



### Older Adult and Disability Sector

Next telebriefing will be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month on June 18 from 3:00 - 4:00 PM.

[Zoom Meeting Link \(click here\)](#)

[Submit Telebriefing Questions \(click here\)](#)

---

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS



### California Health Action Network San Diego Health Advisory Updates

[Health Advisory Update #34: Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Update: Expansion of Monoclonal Antibody Indications](#)

- Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) of combination monoclonal antibody therapies with bamlanivimab/ etesevimab and casirivimab with imdevimab (REGEN-COV™) in the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 have been greatly expanded.
- Providers should consider the risk/benefit of monoclonal antibody treatment as soon as possible for symptomatic COVID-19 patients. Those eligible for treatment include newly specified groups listed below in this advisory, as well as other medical conditions or factors. Race and ethnicity may also place individual patients at high risk for progression to severe COVID-19. Hispanic/Latino, Black and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander residents have the highest hospitalization and death rates in San Diego County.

[To view all CAHANs, click here.](#)

---



## 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).

### [AFL 21-15](#) to All Facilities– May 13, 2021

Informs facilities that the Statewide Logistics Task Force has authorized all healthcare providers and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) responders to use the state inventory of PPE to request a 30-day sustainment supply of PPE. This is currently a one-time initiative planned to end June 15, 2021.

### [AFL 21-14](#) to All Intermediate Care Facilities/Developmentally Disabled– May 13, 2021

Notifies all ICF/DD-H-N-CN facilities of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for improving their infection control and prevention practices to prevent the transmission of COVID-19, including guidance for visitation.

[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.

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

[PIN 21-26-ASC](#) - Informational Call on May 21, 2021: Updated Guidance on Return Towards Normal In Adult and Senior Care Facilities – [Power Point Slides](#). This informational call focused on updates to the statewide waiver related to visitation, communal dining, group activities, residents returning from outings, and entertainment.

[PIN 21-07-CCLD](#) (May 20, 2021) PIN 21-07-CCLD informs providers about the need to prepare for extreme heat, public safety power shutoffs (PSPS), and wildfire emergencies. It also provides information on the Everbridge Mass Notification System and how it will be used to notify providers of disasters, such as fires and PSPS.

[PIN 21-17.2-ASC](#) (May 14, 2021) PIN 21-17.2-ASC supersedes PIN 21-17.1-ASC, dated April 23, 2021, providing specific updates to the statewide waiver related to visitation, communal dining, group activities, residents returning from outings, and entertainment. PIN 21-17.2-ASC maintains guidance from PIN 21-17.1-ASC related to new admissions. Underlined text in this PIN indicates where updates have been made to PIN 21-17.1-ASC.

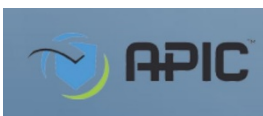
[PIN 21-25-ASC](#) (May 3, 2021) announces that annual inspections utilizing the infection control domain will be conducted onsite in adult and senior care facilities beginning May 10, 2021. Additional resources for Community Care Licensing - Inspection Process -Adult and Senior Care Inspection Tools with Infection Control Domain is available [here](#).

[PowerPoint Slides](#) (May 5, 2021) from informational call “COVID-19 Inspections: The New Infection Control Domain” [PIN 21-24-ASC](#).

[PIN 21-23-ASC](#) (April 20, 2021) provides updated quarantine and isolation guidance to Adult and Senior Care licensees with facility staff who are fully vaccinated, facility staff who were exposed to a person with COVID-19, and facility staff who test positive for COVID-19. In addition, this PIN provides infection control practices for facility staff to safely commute to work.

[PIN 21-20-ASC](#) (April 15, 2021) provides further information about how Adult and Senior Care residential licensees, facility staff, and residents can access the COVID-19 vaccine. Please note, now that the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program has concluded, the [Federal Retail Pharmacy Program for COVID-19 Vaccination](#) has been activated. This program includes 21 participating national pharmacy partners that provide COVID-19 vaccinations at retail pharmacy locations. There are also [Long-term Care Pharmacies](#) distributing the COVID-19 vaccine through this program.

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



**THE LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY  
INFECTION PREVENTIONIST**

# CONFERENCE

Friday, July 30, 2021 – 10:00AM to 1:00PM

**New!** In the previous year, the COVID-19 pandemic has magnified the need for infection preventionist in the most vulnerable healthcare settings. This year, federal regulations will have a considerable impact on how long-term care facilities address infection prevention and control. To help prepare these facilities for the change and provide a network of resources, San Diego & Imperial County Association of Professionals in Infection Control (APIC) will provide healthcare professionals working in long-term care facilities with infection prevention and control information that are both elementary and unique to the LTCF practice setting. Please join San Diego & Imperial County APIC at this half-day conference offering.

Accreditation Statement: This activity is provider approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider No. CEP 3947 for a maximum of 2.0 contact hours.

To learn more or to register, [click here](#).



## HOST A VACCINE EVENT

The County of San Diego is increasing access to COVID-19 vaccines by working with partners and stakeholders to host vaccination events.

[Request to host a vaccine event!](#)

- Please submit a completed [form](#) with information about your prospective vaccination event.
- County staff or a partner organization will review the information submitted and respond within 5 business days.
- Please note, we will do our best to accommodate preferences but we cannot guarantee that all preferences will be met.

For questions please reach out to [CovidVaxInquiry.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:CovidVaxInquiry.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov).



May is Mental Health Awareness month and June is Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness month. The free presentations listed below are available year-round and are a great way to educate the general community as well LTC facility staff, residents, and family members. If of interest, please contact the sources listed below.

- **Dementia Friends Sessions:** 60 minute workshop held virtually to teach people how to engage and communicate with those living with dementia. This workshop is interactive, and goes through common misconceptions around dementia. Email [Toni-Ann.Simpelo2@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Toni-Ann.Simpelo2@sdcounty.ca.gov) to learn more and/or schedule a workshop.
- **Dementia Resources Presentation:** 10-15 minute presentation highlighting some dementia resources that are available for the public, many of which have come out of efforts of the Age Well San Diego teams. This includes dementia communication tip cards, dementia friendly activities toolkit, Caregiver Handbook and more. Email [Toni-Ann.Simpelo2@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Toni-Ann.Simpelo2@sdcounty.ca.gov) to learn more and/or schedule a workshop.
- **Outreach & Education Dementia Presentation:** 60 minute presentation that provides an overview of the signs of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. This presentation includes tips and tools for caregivers as well. To schedule this presentation email [Matthew.Parcasio@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Matthew.Parcasio@sdcounty.ca.gov).
- **Good Mental Health is Ageless:** This 45 minute presentation dispels myths, stigma, and barriers surrounding older adults' mental health. The presentation covers the signs of mental health issues and a self-assessment tool. Emphasis is placed on prevention activities such as: physical activity, social interaction, interpersonal relationships, life learning, and finding humor in life. To schedule this presentation email [Hazel.Quinones@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Hazel.Quinones@sdcounty.ca.gov).



**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**:

- 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

For more detailed information, [click here](#). Email questions to [moc.logs.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:moc.logs.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov)



## Early Treatment for COVID-19 at the Monoclonal Antibody Regional Center (MARC)

Monoclonal antibodies have been shown in [clinical trials](#) to reduce COVID-19-related hospitalization and emergency room visits. The [Monoclonal Antibody Regional Center](#) 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 severe 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. Treatment is available at **no-cost** to those who live or work in San Diego County, regardless of health insurance or immigration status.

- **Escondido Location:** Palomar Medical Center Downtown, 555 East Valley Parkway, Escondido, CA 92025; open seven days a week from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM
- **Chula Vista Location:** at San Ysidro Health, 391 Oxford Street, Chula Vista, CA 91911 (in the former Chula Vista Fire Station #5 building); open seven days a week from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- Phone number is the same for both sites: **619-685-2500**

For questions, please email [COVIDtreatment@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:COVIDtreatment@sdcounty.ca.gov). For additional information, please visit [www.sandiegocounty.gov/COVIDHealthProfessionals](http://www.sandiegocounty.gov/COVIDHealthProfessionals). Patient flyer links [MARC Patient Flyer \(English\)](#), [MARC Patient Flyer \(Spanish\)](#)

---



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

On May 11, 2021, CMS published an interim final rule with comment period (IFC). This rule establishes **Long-Term Care (LTC) Facility Vaccine Immunization Requirements for Residents and Staff**. This includes new requirements for educating residents or resident representatives and staff regarding the benefits and potential side effects associated with the COVID-19 vaccine, and offering the vaccine. Furthermore, LTC facilities must report COVID-19 vaccine and therapeutics treatment information to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN).

- Transparency: CMS will post the new information reported to the NHSN for viewing by facilities, stakeholders, or the general public on CMS's COVID-19 Nursing Home Data website.
- Updated Survey Tools: CMS has updated tools used by surveyors to assess compliance with these new requirements. For details, please see [QSO-21-19-NH \(cms.gov\)](#)

**Revised: The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services** revised Skilled Nursing Facilities visitation guidance – April 27, 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.



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

**The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** guidance for fully vaccinated individuals and visitation – May 13, 2021. [When You've Been Fully Vaccinated | CDC](#). Fully vaccinated people can resume activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing, except where required by federal, state, local, tribal, or territorial laws, rules, and regulations, including local business and workplace guidance. These recommendations can help you make decisions about daily activities after you are fully vaccinated. They are not intended for [healthcare settings](#). Please always consult with your local licensing staff if you have questions.



## County of San Diego Public Health Orders



[Public Health Order](#) - **Updated 5/6/21**: Please review the entire document to see all of the updated sections highlighted in yellow. Visitation aligns with and will defer to the most recent guidance by CDPH and CDSS.

[Order of the Public Health Officer - Quarantine of Persons Exposed to COVID-19](#) Dated 4/5/2021: Please note, this guidance is for fully vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals and references healthcare workers and those in congregate settings.



## 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. For questions, please email: [COVIDvaccinePharm@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:COVIDvaccinePharm@cdph.ca.gov) 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.



## COVID-19 Vaccine Resources for Long-Term Care Facilities

Stay informed about COVID-19 vaccination information by bookmarking the [County COVID-19 vaccine webpage](#). Please continue to share the County [COVID-19 Vaccine webpage for appointments](#) with your staff and ambulatory residents.

**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](#) are available in English and Spanish.

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.

[COVID-19 Vaccine Community Conversation 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. [Click here](#) for some CDC vaccine considerations.

**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.

**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](#).

---

## ONGOING PROGRAMS, SERVICES, and RESOURCES

[COVID-19 Watch Surveillance Report](#)

[COVID-19 Testing Information & Resources](#)

[CDC Guidance and Resources for Infection Control in Facilities](#)

## Triggers Dashboard: Testing Positivity Rate Item #10



**Our mailing address is:**  
COVID-LTC@sdcounty.ca.gov

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).