

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



August 24, 2021

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

This week the U.S. Food and Drug Administration fully approved the [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#), which now will be marketed as Comirnaty (koe-mir'-na-tee), for the prevention of COVID-19 disease in individuals 16 years of age and older. The vaccine also continues to be available under emergency use authorization (EUA), including for individuals 12 through 15 years of age and for the administration of a third dose in certain immunocompromised individuals.

The State Public Health Officer Order regarding [Health Care Worker Vaccine Requirements](#) states that all workers, paid and unpaid, who provide services or work in facilities licensed by CDPH and listed in the Order (such as Skilled Nursing Facilities) must have their first dose of a one-dose regimen or their second dose of two-dose regimen **by September 30, 2021**. Please see the Order in its entirety for information on exemptions, maintaining records, and more.

State Public Health Orders regarding health care worker vaccine requirements and [visitation requirements](#) in indoor settings **only apply to certain facilities (such as Skilled Nursing Facilities and General Acute Care Hospitals) and do not apply at this time to Adult and Senior Care Facilities licensed by the California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD).**

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 clergyperson if the employee declines due to religious reasons.

The CDPH's BinaxNOW™ Antigen Testing Program for COVID-19 is available to all facilities, including CCLD-licensed Adult and Senior Care facilities. If your facility would like to conduct on-site COVID-19 testing, apply through CDPH CLIA waiver for the rapid antigen test kits. [Apply to partner with the State of California to offer antigen + confirmatory PCR tests](#). Once your facility has a CLIA waiver approved, email [logs.testing.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:logs.testing.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov) to request test kits.

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 this Thursday, August 26, 2:00 - 3:00 PM, This telebriefing will feature a guest speaker from Community Care Licensing, who will discuss updated guidance for the use of face masks outlined in [PIN 21-38-ASC](#).
- [CAHAN Health Advisory: Increased Interseasonal Activity of Respiratory Syncytial Virus in San Diego County](#)
- [CAHAN Health Advisory Update #38: Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Survey of Views on COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
- [AFL 21-33](#) Facility Emergency Contact and All Facilities Letter Recipient Information
- [PIN 21-38-ASC](#) Updated Guidance for The Use Of Face Masks, Surgical Masks, And Respirators Related To Coronavirus
- [Infection Prevention: Updated Guidance for Residential Facilities PowerPoint Slides](#) from informational call with Adult and Senior Care (ASC) residential licensees
- [Guidance on Infection Control for Adult Day Programs PowerPoint Slides](#) from informational call with Adult Day Program Providers

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!

---

# ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

---

## UPCOMING TELEBRIEFINGS



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

Next telebriefing will be held **Thursday, August 26, 2:00 - 3:00 PM.**

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

[Submit Telebriefing Questions](#)

---



### CAHAN Health Advisory

#### **NEW:** [Increased Interseasonal Activity of Respiratory Syncytial Virus in San Diego County](#)

- There is currently increased activity of interseasonal respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) in San Diego County.
- RSV can be associated with severe disease in young children and older adults.
- 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.

#### **NEW:** [Health Advisory Update #38: Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)

#### [Survey of Views on COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends an additional mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose for moderately and severely

immunocompromised people after an initial 2-dose primary mRNA vaccine series.

- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is still evaluating data on the effectiveness of an additional dose for immunocompromised individuals for those that received the single dose Janssen (Johnson and Johnson) vaccine.
- Other fully vaccinated persons do not need an additional dose nor a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine, at this time. A decision regarding a booster dose for non-immunocompromised individuals, who are fully vaccinated, may be announced by the CDC in the near future.
- Fully vaccinated immunosuppressed individuals should consult with their primary care provider when obtaining an additional vaccine dose.
- The CDC does not recommend serologic testing to assess response to vaccine in the fully vaccinated or to determine the need for an additional vaccine dose.

View [CAHAN Alerts](#)

## County of San Diego Resources for Long-Term Care Facilities


Click [here](#) for PDF printable version

**BE COVIDSAFE** ✓

**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO COVID-19 RESPONSE:  
LONG-TERM CARE AND  
RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES SECTOR**

Support Available at No Cost	Email/Contact
On-site COVID-19 vaccination clinics at your facility for staff, residents, and visitors	<a href="mailto:COVID-HealthcareStatus@sdcounty.ca.gov">COVID-HealthcareStatus@sdcounty.ca.gov</a>
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as masks, gloves, and gowns	<a href="mailto:Mac.logs.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov">Mac.logs.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov</a>
Rapid Antigen Tests	<a href="mailto:Logs.testing.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov">Logs.testing.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov</a>
Assistance with Monoclonal Antibody Treatments	<a href="mailto:COVIDtreatment@sdcounty.ca.gov">COVIDtreatment@sdcounty.ca.gov</a> or call 619-685-2500
Staff training on infection control and prevention	<a href="mailto:COVID-HealthcareStatus@sdcounty.ca.gov">COVID-HealthcareStatus@sdcounty.ca.gov</a>
Educational session(s) for staff or residents who are hesitant to be vaccinated	<a href="mailto:COVID-HealthcareStatus@sdcounty.ca.gov">COVID-HealthcareStatus@sdcounty.ca.gov</a>
Other questions, needs, or concerns or to receive our weekly updates	<a href="mailto:COVID-LTC@sdcounty.ca.gov">COVID-LTC@sdcounty.ca.gov</a>

For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, please visit:  
**[coronavirus-sd.com/vaccine](https://coronavirus-sd.com/vaccine)**





## County of San Diego Public Health Laboratory

**The County of San Diego Public Health Laboratory closed temporarily effective 7/1/2021 and will not be able to process COVID-19 samples due to unforeseen events. Your facility will be notified once operations and services have been restored.**

Your testing needs and that of the entire community in San Diego are very important to us. During this time, facilities will need to utilize other laboratory resources for testing services to test staff and residents. These other laboratories could be local hospitals with testing capacity in your area or commercial laboratories that conduct COVID-19 testing (see below for commercial laboratory contact information).

<b>Commercial Laboratory</b>	<b>Website or Email</b>	<b>Phone</b>
BioCept	<a href="https://biocept.com/covid-19/">https://biocept.com/covid-19/</a>	888-332-7729
Bioreference Laboratories	<a href="https://www.bioreference.com/">https://www.bioreference.com/</a>	833-684-0508
Helix	<a href="https://www.helix.com/pages/covid19-efforts">https://www.helix.com/pages/covid19-efforts</a>	415-805-3360
LabCorp	<a href="https://www.labcorp.com/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/provider-information">https://www.labcorp.com/coronavirus-disease-covid-19/provider-information</a>	858-210-0926
Mayo	<a href="https://news.mayocliniclabs.com/covid19/">https://news.mayocliniclabs.com/covid19/</a>	800-533-1710
Mira Dx	<a href="mailto:info@miradx.com">info@miradx.com</a>	424-387-8100
Quest Diagnostics	<a href="https://www.questdiagnostics.com/home/Covid-19/">https://www.questdiagnostics.com/home/Covid-19/</a>	866-697-8378
ARUP Laboratories	<a href="https://www.aruplab.com/">https://www.aruplab.com/</a>	800-522-2787
Mayo Clinic	<a href="https://www.mayoclinic.org/">https://www.mayoclinic.org/</a>	480-301-8000



## 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 21-33](#) to All Facilities - August 24, 2021

This All Facilities Letter (AFL) notifies that the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is requesting updated emergency contact information from all

facilities. CDPH is also requesting updated AFL recipient information. If you have any questions regarding this AFL or for assistance in completing the survey, please email the CDPH Duty Officer by email at [CHCQDutyOfficer@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:CHCQDutyOfficer@cdph.ca.gov).

[AFL 20-22](#) to Skilled Nursing Facilities - August 12, 2021

This All Facilities Letter (AFL) supersedes AFL 20-22.8, and notifies SNFs of updated CDPH, 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.

[AFL 21-14](#) to Intermediate Care Facilities - August 12, 2021

This AFL supersedes AFL 21-14, and 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. This AFL authorizes all ICF/DD-H-N-CN facilities to temporarily modify their facility's visitation policies in accordance with CMS and CDC COVID-19 guidance when necessary to protect the health and safety of clients/residents, staff, and the public. This AFL provides visitation guidance in accordance with CMS Quality, Safety and Oversight Group [\(QSO\) 21-14](#) (PDF), including guidance for safely facilitating in-person visitation in indoor and outdoor facility settings.

[AFL 21-32](#) to All Facilities - August 12, 2021

This AFL notifies all facilities that effective August 16, 2021, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Centralized Applications Branch (CAB), will change the way it distributes certification correspondence to health care facilities.

[AFL 20-53.5](#) to Skilled Nursing Facilities - August 3, 2021

This AFL revision includes reference to the July 26, 2021 Public Health Order requiring SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic screening testing for Skilled Nursing Facility healthcare personnel that are unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated.

[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 21-38-ASC](#) to All Adult and Senior Care Program Residential Licensees, August 19, 2021  
PIN 21-38-ASC supersedes [PIN 21-12-ASC](#), dated February 10, 2021, and [PIN 21-17.2-ASC](#), dated May 14, 2021, in part and provides updated guidance to Adult and Senior Care (ASC) residential licensees related to face masks, surgical masks, and N95 respirators for facility staff, residents, and visitors. Important! Guidance in PIN 21-12-ASC related to resident isolation and cohorting, staffing considerations based on the resident's COVID-19 status, and use of personal protective equipment (i.e., eye protection, gowns, and gloves) still applies. The Visitation Waiver in PIN 21-17.2-ASC remains effective and is superseded in part only regarding updated recommendations to masking as provided in this PIN.

**NEW:** [PIN 21-37-ASC](#) to All Adult and Senior Care Program Residential Licensees, August 12, 2021  
[PowerPoint Slides](#) from informational call with Adult and Senior Care (ASC) licensees and their staff to provide information on the Delta variant of COVID-19 and review new infection control guidance

**NEW:** [PIN 21-36-ASC](#) to Adult Day Program Providers, August 12, 2021  
[PowerPoint Slides](#) from informational call with Adult Day Program (ADP) providers and their staff to provide information on the Delta variant of COVID-19 and review infection control guidance.

[PIN 21-15-CCLD](#) to All Community Care Licensees and Providers, August 13, 2021  
Informs all providers and licensees of the recent recall of the Kidde TruSense Smoke and Combination Smoke/Carbon Monoxide Alarms. The smoke alarm and the combination smoke/carbon monoxide alarm can fail to alert consumers of a fire.



[PIN 21-32.1-ASC](#) to All Adult and Senior Care Program Residential Licensees, August 11, 2021

This PIN supersedes PIN 21-32-ASC. It includes routine diagnostic screening testing guidance for facility staff in Adult and Senior Care residential facilities. This PIN also provides updated guidance related to N95 respirators and surgical masks for facility staff. In addition, it removes the proof of vaccination requirement identified in PIN 21-32-ASC that the QR code must confirm the vaccine record as an official record of the State of California. Underlined text in this PIN indicates where additions have been made.

[PIN 21-14-CCLD](#) to All Community Care Licensing Facility Licensees, August 10, 2021

This PIN provides information on the Everbridge Emergency Notification System and how it will continue to be used to notify licensees in advance of, or during, natural disasters such as wildfires, Public Safety Power Shutoffs, earthquakes, flash floods, and more.

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



## BinaxNOW™ Antigen Testing Program for COVID-19

**REMINDER:** The CDPH's BinaxNOW™ Antigen Testing Program for COVID-19 is available to all CCLD-licensed ASC facility types. This CDPH-run program offers many benefits and user-friendly features including a process for CCLD-licensed facilities to obtain a free Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) waiver, which is necessary for antigen testing. These point-of-care antigen diagnostic tests detect the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and can provide results in less than 20 minutes. Your facility must have a CLIA waiver before receiving these test kits. Once your facility has a CLIA waiver approved, email [logs.testing.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:logs.testing.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov) to request test kits.

[Click to apply to partner with the State of California to offer antigen + confirmatory PCR tests.](#)

CDPH is hosting Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) weekly meetings about the CDPH's BinaxNOW™ Antigen Testing Program for COVID-19 for Adult and Senior Care facilities licensed by the CCLD. [PIN 21-30-ASC](#) contains background information.



- FAQ sessions occur every Thursday at 1 pm, no need to pre-register.
- Join via Zoom Meeting: <https://cdph-ca.gov.zoom.us/j/85118149890?pwd=R3c3ZDVzUTZpajBFR3NUZStaeERaZz09>

Visit the County's webpage for [BinaxNOW Antigen Testing Program](#) for more information or email [moc.logs.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:moc.logs.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov) for questions.



## Monoclonal Antibody Treatment Available at New Locations!

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 SARS-CoV-2 results who are 12 years of age and older weighing at least 40 kg and at high risk for progressing to severe COVID-19 disease and/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. Other medical conditions or factors (such as, race or ethnicity) may qualify a patient as high risk. See the [EUA](#) the combination of casirivimab and imdevimab and the [California Health Alert Network – San Diego \(CAHAN-SD\)](#) for more details.

**Treatment should be administered as soon as possible following a positive test result, preferably within 72 hours of symptom onset and no later than 10 days after symptoms begin. Refer medically eligible individuals by calling (619) 685-2500. Patients may self-refer by calling (619) 685-2500.**

Accepting all medically eligible patients, regardless of health insurance or immigration status.

- Locations
  - MARC at Vista Community Clinic in Vista
  - MARC at Neighborhood Healthcare in Escondido
  - Family Health Centers of San Diego in Chula Vista and Hillcrest
- Promotional Resources
  - Patient Flyer ([English](#) / [Spanish](#))

- [Provider Flyer](#)
- [Messaging Tips for Providers](#)
- Promotional video ([English](#) / [Spanish](#))
- Transportation
  - [Medi-Cal Health Plan Contact Card](#)
  - [Medi-Cal Transportation FAQs](#)

For questions, call 619-685-2500 or contact [COVIDtreatment@sdcountry.ca.gov](mailto:COVIDtreatment@sdcountry.ca.gov)



## California COVID-19 Vaccination Program Update Federal Retail Pharmacy Program Activation

The [Federal Retail Pharmacy Program for COVID-19 Vaccination](#) 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. 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, 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.

## 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

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