

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



September 21, 2021

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

On 9/17/21, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) advisory panel urged for those people 65 and older, those at risk of severe COVID-19, and those at risk of occupational exposure to get a COVID-19 booster. The agency's decision would tee up consideration by an advisory panel of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which has scheduled scheduled meetings on 9/22/21 and 9/23/21 to discuss boosters. More clarification on the approval will come from the CDC in those upcoming meetings and through the State in PINs and/or AFLs.

Given the immense strain on our healthcare workers at this time, we wanted to share with you valuable information about mental health and the Check Your Mood Depression Self-Assessment. VIRTUAL Check Your Mood Day is taking place on 10/7/2021, in conjunction with National Depression Screening Day! You can help educate your staff, residents, and their families of the valuable mental health resources and services available in San Diego County and the importance of checking on their mental health. Visit [www.CheckYourMoodSD.org](http://www.CheckYourMoodSD.org) for more resources and to get involved.

We will be hosting a special telebriefing this Friday, September 24, 1:00 - 2:00 PM, for Skilled Nursing Facility staff and administrators regarding how to work with your LTC Pharmacy to acquire and administer COVID-19 vaccines and monoclonal

antibodies to your residents. The County of San Diego Chief Pharmacy Officer, Subject Medical Experts, and Nurses will discuss this process and be available for a Question & Answer session. If you would like more information, please email [covid-healthcarestatus@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:covid-healthcarestatus@sdcounty.ca.gov).

With COVID-testing needs on the rise around the County, please be aware that Mondays are often particularly busy at [County testing sites](#). If possible, individuals needing COVID-19 testing at County sites may want to consider obtaining tests on other days to reduce wait times.

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, September 23, 2021, 2:00 - 3:00 PM
- Check Your Mood Day - Mental Health Resources
- [AFL 21-36](#) Suspension of Regulatory Enforcement of Specified Skilled Nursing Facility Requirement
- [AFL 21-35](#) Guidance for In-Center Services and Operation of ADHCs during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic
- [PIN 21-43-ASC](#) Coronavirus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) Mitigation Plan Report And Training

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, September 23, 2021, 2:00 - 3:00 PM.**

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

[Submit Telebriefing Questions](#)

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS



MMWR article published September 10, 2021 that highlights the vaccine efficacy against the delta variant. Read [Monitoring Incidence of COVID-19 Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths, by Vaccination Status — 13 U.S. Jurisdictions, April 4–July 17, 2021](#)



## VIRTUAL Check Your Mood Day

**NEW: 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](http://www.CheckYourMoodSD.org) or email us at [checkyourmood@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:checkyourmood@sdcounty.ca.gov)



## Additional Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine vs. Booster

Additional Doses Are Not Boosters. Providers should ensure that your clinic only administers additional doses of COVID-19 vaccine for immunocompromised patients and not COVID-19 vaccine booster doses at this time.

### Additional Dose Recommended for Immunocompromised

- An additional mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose is recommended for moderately to severely immunocompromised people after an initial 2-dose primary mRNA vaccine series.
- An additional dose is administered when the immune response following a primary vaccine series is likely to be insufficient.
- An additional mRNA COVID-19 dose is recommended only for patients with [moderate to severe immune compromise](#) due to a medical condition or receipt of immunosuppressive medications or treatments.

### Booster Dose Not Yet Authorized or Recommended

- According to the CDC, [vaccine recipients may be eligible for a COVID-19 booster shot beginning in the fall](#), with individuals being eligible starting 8 months after they received their [second dose](#) of an mRNA vaccine (either [Pfizer-BioNTech](#) or [Moderna](#)).
- This is subject to authorization by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and recommendation by CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP).
- FDA is conducting an independent evaluation to determine the safety and effectiveness of a booster dose of the mRNA vaccines. ACIP will decide whether to issue a booster dose recommendation based on a thorough review of the evidence. Stay tuned for upcoming guidelines.

**For more information, please visit:**

- [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Indications for Patients Who Are Immunocompromised](#)



## 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 21-36](#) 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.

**NEW:** [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 clergyperson 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.

[AFL 20-40.2](#) to All Facilities, Nurse Assistant Training Programs - September 8, 2021

This revision notifies all facilities 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).

[AFL 20-49.3](#) to All Facilities - September 8, 2021

This AFL notifies all facilities that the temporary waiver of specified statutory and regulatory requirements is extended until December 31, 2021, in compliance with Executive Order [N-12-21](#) (PDF).

[AFL 20-57.2](#) to All Facilities - September 8, 2021

This revision notifies all facilities that the temporary waiver of specified statutory and regulatory requirements is extended until December 31, 2021 in compliance with Executive Order [N-12-21](#) (PDF).

[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 21-43-ASC](#) to All Adult and Senior Care Program Residential Licensees, September 17, 2021

PIN 21-43-ASC 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"

[PIN 21-18-CCLD](#) to Certified Administrators (Prospective and Current) and Administrator Certification Program Training Vendors, September 10, 2021  
PIN 21-18-CCLD supersedes, in part, PIN 20-28-CCLD, dated December 15, 2020, related to statewide waivers allowing certain online courses available to Prospective and Current Certified Administrators of Adult Residential Facilities, Group Homes, Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly, and Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Programs and Administrator Certification Program Training Vendors. PIN 21-18- CCLD also supersedes PIN 21-10-CCLD, dated July 8, 2021, in its entirety and sets an expiration date for the waivers described in this PIN, as authorized by the Governor's Executive Order, N-12-21, dated August 16, 2021.

[PIN 21-41-ASC](#) to All Adult and Senior Care Program Residential Licensees, August 27, 2021

[PowerPoint Slides](#) from informational call with Adult and Senior Care licensees regarding "Updated Statewide Visitation Guidance."

[PIN 21-40-ASC](#) to All Adult and Senior Care Program Residential Licensees,

August 27, 2021

PIN 21-40-ASC supersedes in part PIN 21-17.2-ASC, dated May 14, 2021, related to the Visitation Waiver and processes for verifying the vaccination status of all visitors, COVID-19 diagnostic tests of visitors who are unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated, and adds a requirement that licensees obtain and track documentation of vaccination or COVID-19 diagnostic tests of visitors who are unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated, in order to have an indoor visit. This PIN also supersedes in part PIN 21-17.2-ASC related to Best Practices for Visitation.

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



## 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 results 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.

For a list of sites and more information, please visit the [Monoclonal Antibody Regional Center webpage](#).

Rapid Response Teams were recently developed to 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](mailto: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/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](mailto:cvrs@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)

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## 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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