

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



September 8, 2021

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

As cases of COVID-19 are on the rise, some individuals may want to get a booster shot. Booster doses are not yet authorized or recommended at this time. The CDC recently made updates to the [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#) and [COVID-19 Vaccine Indications for Patients Who Are Immunocompromised](#) on their website.

We will be hosting a special telebriefing on Wednesday, September 15, 2:00-3:00 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-healthcaresstatus@sdcounty.ca.gov.

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 9, 2021, 2:00 - 3:00 PM

- California COVID-19 Vaccination Program Update, Additional Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine vs. Booster
- [PIN 21-41-ASC](#) PowerPoint slides from Informational Call on "Updated Statewide Visitation Waiver, and Testing and Vaccination Verification Guidance for Visitors Related to COVID-19"
- [AFL 20-46.3](#) Requests for Urgent Staffing Resources for COVID-19

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 this **Thursday, September 9, 2:00 - 3:00 PM.**

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

[Submit Telebriefing Questions](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS



Additional Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine vs. Booster

NEW! 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 doses 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](#)

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	COVID-HealthcareStatus@sdcounty.ca.gov
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as masks, gloves, and gowns	Mac.logs.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov
Rapid Antigen Tests	Logs.testing.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov
Assistance with Monoclonal Antibody Treatments	COVIDtreatment@sdcounty.ca.gov or call 619-685-2500
Staff training on infection control and prevention	COVID-HealthcareStatus@sdcounty.ca.gov
Educational session(s) for staff or residents who are hesitant to be vaccinated	COVID-HealthcareStatus@sdcounty.ca.gov
Other questions, needs, or concerns or to receive our weekly updates	COVID-LTC@sdcounty.ca.gov

For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, please visit:
coronavirus-sd.com/vaccine




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

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-does regimen or their second dose of two-dose regimen by September 30, 2021. 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.

NEW: [AFL 20-46](#) to All Facilities - September 7, 2021

This All Facilities Letter (AFL) supersedes AFL 20-46.2, and clarifies the process for requesting staffing resources for healthcare facilities and alternate care sites during the COVID-19 pandemic. This AFL provides a quick reference guide for multi-jurisdictional responses to emergencies and disasters in California. This AFL provides clarification regarding the costs facilities will incur when accessing staffing resources. Facilities requesting staffing resources through the state staffing

contract will have to pay the full cost.

[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.

[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 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](#) including guidance for safely facilitating in-person visitation in indoor and outdoor facility settings.

[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.

NEW: [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.

[PIN 21-39-ASC](#) to All Adult and Senior Care Program Residential Licensees, August 25, 2021
Notifies Adult and Senior Care (ASC) licensees and Continuing Care Retirement Community providers that pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order N-12- 21, dated August 16, 2021, authority for COVID-19 related waivers was extended and the waivers will expire no later than December 31, 2021, or earlier as determined by California Department of Social Services.

[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 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.

[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 ≥ 65 years of age, or with a BMI ≥ 25 , or with diabetes, or pregnancy, or who have certain chronic medical conditions.

A new MARC location is coming soon to Clairemont Friendship Center in Clairemont. For 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@sdcountry.ca.gov to request Rapid Response Teams or ask questions.



Federal Retail Pharmacy Program (FRPP) Update on COVID-19 Vaccines

UPDATED: 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): 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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