

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



November 17, 2021

Greetings Long-Term Care and Residential Care Facilities of San Diego County, As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, we want to remind you of the [CDC's recommendations for safer holiday celebrations](#). There are several ways to enjoy holiday traditions and protect yourself and the health of families, friends, staff, and facility residents. The best way to minimize COVID-19 risk and keep your family and friends safer is to get vaccinated and get boosters. See the updated [CDPH Vaccine Eligibility Chart](#) for booster details.

The deadline is approaching to get your facility staff vaccinated. Per the [State Public Health Order](#) of September 28, health care workers in Adult and Senior Care (ASC) facilities are required to have the first dose of a one-dose regimen or the second dose of a two-dose regimen by **November 30, 2021**. 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. Due to possible holiday closures, please check the [vaccine schedule](#) to ensure the site is open before arriving.

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
- [AFL 20-87.1 Movement of Patients/Residents in the Healthcare Continuum During Seasonal Surges and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic](#)
- [AFL 21-36.1 Suspension of Regulatory Enforcement of Specified Skilled Nursing Facility Requirements](#)
- [AFL 21-42 Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Vaccination and Booster Dose Guidance](#)
- [PIN 21-22-CCLD: Care Provider Management Bureau \(CPMB\) Customer Service Updates and Background Check Information](#)
- [PIN-21-47-ASC Informational Call Regarding AFL 20-87.1 Movement of Patients/Residents in the Healthcare Continuum During Seasonal Surges and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Pandemic Disease 2019 Boosters And Latest Celebration Guidance](#)

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 **Thursday, November 18,
2021, 2:00-3:00 PM**

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

[Submit Telebriefing Questions](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS

Vaccine Update: Pfizer Vaccine Age Indication

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](#)

California Department of Public Health Vaccine Eligibility

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](#)



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

NEW! [AFL 20-87](#) to Skilled Nursing Facilities, General Acute Hospitals - November 15, 2021

Provides guidance for admission and readmission of skilled nursing facility (SNF)

residents during seasonal hospital surges and the COVID-19 pandemic. This AFL provides guidance on working with local public health departments (LHD) and hospital discharge planners to ensure appropriate placement of resident following hospital discharge. This AFL revision includes updated guidance based on residents' vaccination status

NEW! [AFL 21-36](#) to Skilled Nursing Facilities - November 12, 2021

AFL 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 21-42](#) to Skilled Nursing Facilities - November 12, 2021

AFL ensures SNF are aware of [U.S. Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) authorization](#) and [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) recommendations](#) for COVID-19 vaccine additional and booster doses, explains eligibility considerations for residents and healthcare personnel (HCP), and provides information and resources for facilities to provide or coordinate access to additional and booster doses for their residents.

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

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.

NEW! [PIN 21-22-CCLD](#) to All Community Care Program Licensees and Providers, November 15, 2021

provides updated guidance to individual background check applicants and agencies regarding background check information and updates for Customer Service options.

NEW! [PIN 21-47-ASC](#) to All Adult and Senior Care Program Licensees, November 10, 2021

Announces an upcoming informational call with Adult and Senior Care (ASC) licensees and their staff on November 17, 2021, 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM regarding

“Infection Prevention: Boosters and Latest Celebration Guidance.” Click the link below to join the Zoom webinar:

<https://ucsf.zoom.us/j/93700432518?pwd=dlp5T2xKSElrQkU1ZnVXZC8vVUNpQT09> Passcode: 167686 Webinar ID: 937 0043 2518

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

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.

[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

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 ≥ 65 years of age, or with a BMI ≥ 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@sdcounty.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.



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
 - 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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