

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



November 24, 2021

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

We wish you all a happy Thanksgiving and are grateful to each of you in this quest to keep our most vulnerable residents safe. Celebrate with your family and friends safely by following the [CDC's recommendations for safer holiday celebrations](#). For celebrating at your CDSS/CCL facility, see PIN 21-49 ASC for [Updated Guidance on Communal Dining](#) and more. The best way to minimize COVID-19 risk and keep your family and friends safe is to get vaccinated and get boosters.

Find [COVID-19 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. In addition, in case you haven't already received your flu shot, check out the County website for a list of [Flu Vaccine Locations](#).

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

- **Telebriefing PowerPoint Slides and Recordings:**
 - LTC Telebriefing on November 18, 2021
 - Dr. John Malone, County of San Diego, Medical Consultant, COVID-19 Update
 - Jennifer Wheeler, County of San Diego, LTC Update
- **CAHAN:** SDG&E Potential Public Safety Power Shutoff (PPSP): Proposed date and time for de-energization is 11/24/21 at 6:00 PM to 11/27/21 at 6:00 PM. To register for updates for this PPSP event or for future events, please visit [San Diego Gas & Electric](#) or call 1-800-990-7788. Also, please see [AFL 20-59](#) for Public Safety Power Shutoff Power Outage Reporting information.
- [AFL 21-44](#): Recommendations to Prevent and Manage Influenza Outbreaks in the 2021-2022 Season
- [AFL 21-45](#): Citation Criteria and Civil Penalty Increases
- [AFL 21-46](#): New Medical Director Certification Requirements
- [AFL 21-47](#): Liability for Damages for Violation of a Resident's Rights
- [AFL 21-48](#): Hospice Patient Recruiting and Referral
- [PIN 21-23-CCLD](#): Estimated SSI/SSP Payment Standards Effective January 1, 2022
- [PIN 21-49-ASC](#): Updated Guidance on Communal Dining, Group Activities, Entertainment, Non-Essential Services, and Transportation During The Coronavirus Pandemic
- [PIN 21-48-ASC](#): Authority of Conservators and Agents Under Powers of Attorney Related To Residents' Rights
- PIN 21-47 **PowerPoint Slides** from information call on "[Infection Prevention: 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, December 9, 2021, 2:00-3:00 PM**

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

[Submit Telebriefing Questions](#)



Long-Term Care Sector Telebriefing Slides and Recording: November 18, 2021

NEW: Dr. John Malone, County of San Diego Medical Consultant, [COVID-19 Update](#); [COVID Watch](#)

NEW: Jennifer Wheeler, County of San Diego, [LTC Update](#)

Recording for this telebriefing is available [here](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEWS



California Department of Public Health

CDPH publishes news and All Facilities Letters (AFLs) regularly. To receive email notifications of AFLs, email your request to LNCPolicy@cdph.ca.gov

NEW [AFL 21-44](#) to Skilled Nursing Facilities, November 19, 2021

Provides recommendations for the prevention and control of Influenza in

California Skilled Nursing Facilities for the 2021-2022 season during the COVID-19 pandemic.

NEW [AFL 21-45](#) to Long-Term Care Facilities, November 19, 2021

Notifies long-term care facilities of the chaptering of Assembly Bill 323 that changes the burden of proof CDPH must meet when issue Class "AA" citations. This bill also creates a new category of citation and increases civil penalty amounts in Skilled Nursing Facilities and intermediate care facilities.

NEW [AFL 21-46](#) to Skilled Nursing Facilities, November 19, 2021

Notifies Skilled Nursing Facilities of the chaptering of Assembly Bill 749 establishing new medical director certification requirements.

NEW [AFL 21-47](#) to Skilled Nursing Facilities and Intermediate Care Facilities, November 19, 2021

Notifies facilities of the of the chaptering of Assembly Bill 849 changing a court's method of computing damages in a civil action against a Skilled Nursing Facility or Intermediate Care Facility for violation of a resident's rights under federal or state law.

NEW [AFL 21-48](#) to Hospices, November 19, 2021

Notifies hospices of the chaptering of Assembly Bill 1280 prohibiting hospices from paying referral sources, specifying staff than can assist in the election of hospice and requiring a specified notice of rights.

[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

[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.

[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.

[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 21-23-CCLD to All Residential Community Care Providers, November 19, 2021

Releases the updated estimated Social Security Income and State Supplementary Payment payment standards effective January 1, 2022, for Non-Medical Out-of-Home - Licensed Facility or Without In-Kind Room and Board.

NEW! [PIN 21-49-ASC](#) to All Adult and Senior Care Program Licensees, November 17, 2021

Supersedes in part PIN 21-17.2-ASC, dated May 14, 2021, and provides specific updates to communal dining and entertainment. PIN 21-49-ASC also provides new guidance related to transportation of residents and maintains guidance on non-essential services and group activities.

NEW! [PIN 21-48-ASC](#) to All Adult and Senior Care Program Licensees, November 17, 2021

Provides guidance regarding the authority of conservators and agents under powers of attorney related to specified residents' rights.

NEW! [PIN 21-47-ASC](#) to All Adult and Senior Care Program Licensees, November 17, 2021

Powerpoint Slides from Informational call "[Infection Prevention: Boosters and Latest Celebration Guidance](#)"

[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.

[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.

[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/cairo-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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