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TELEBRIEFING

Upcoming Telebriefing will be **Thursday, January 13, 2022, 2:00-3:00 PM**

[Zoom Meeting Link](#)

[Submit Telebriefing Questions](#)

For listen mode only, call: 1 (669) 900-6833, when prompted, enter the following Meeting ID: 826 2009 8291. Passcode: 242111

Telebriefing Slides and Recording: December 9, 2021

NEW: Dr. Raymond Chinn, County of San Diego Medical Consultant, [COVID-19 Update](#)

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

[Telebriefing Recording](#)

SECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 14, 2021

As the holidays are upon us, we understand that family and friends will want to congregate more often and be in closer proximity. This makes a challenging situation even more challenging given the dangers of unwanted guests such as COVID-19 and the seasonal flu virus. Thank you for following your licensing entity's guidance for holiday gatherings to prevent the spread of these viruses. It is more critical than ever to continue practicing non-pharmaceutical interventions (hand washing, distancing, masking, etc.) and good ventilation strategies (such as outdoor gatherings), weather permitting, as much as possible.

Our County of San Diego Public Health Officer strongly recommends that long-term care facility staff and residents get their booster dose by December 15, 2021. If you have

residents that are immobile or unable to leave the facility (such as those with dementia or behavioral health challenges) and need on-site vaccinations, please email us at COVID-HealthcareStatus@sdcounty.ca.gov. Due to a high number of requests, it may take our County teams about 10 days to respond and we are currently scheduling into January 2022.

The County of San Diego Skilled Nursing Facility Vaccinator project is also in full swing COVID-HealthcareStatus@sdcounty.ca.gov. If your SNF and would like to participate and be able to vaccinate and booster your residents with your nursing staff, please contact us at COVID-HealthcareStatus@sdcounty.ca.gov.

As always, mobile residents and staff can get their booster shots through their primary care physicians, at pharmacies, or at any of the County sites ([COVID-19 Vaccine \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](https://www.sandiegocounty.gov)). In addition, we urge all staff and residents to get vaccinated against the flu now as [recommended by the CDC](#), even if they have already received a COVID-19 vaccine, including the COVID-19 booster.

Last week we held our final Long-Term Care Sector telebriefing of 2021. If you missed it, the recording and PowerPoints links are available above. Since March 2020, we have spent time together on 44 telebriefings! We could not have imagined that we would still be responding to a global pandemic, yet we all continue our vigilant efforts to prevent and combat COVID-19. As 2021 begins to sunset, we thank you for your commitment to working in partnership with us.

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

- [State Issues Mask Mandate for Indoor Public Places](#) (effective December 15, 2021)
- [AFL 21-51](#) Assembly Bill (AB) 1585 – Expansion of SNF Infection Preventionist (IP) Minimum Qualifications
- [AFL 21-52](#) Guidance for Residents/Clients to Safely Participate in Day Programs
- [AFL 21-49](#) COVID-19 Infection Control Recommendations During the 2021 Holiday Season
- [PIN 21-50-ASC](#) Informational Call on December 15th, 2021, 1:00 - 2:30 pm regarding Coronavirus Disease: Working Through Challenging Situations, Updates on Variants, and Best Practices for Caring for Persons in Care with COVID-19
- [CAHAN Disease Notification](#): Joint Statement on Western States Recommendation of Expanded Pfizer- BioNTech Booster Eligibility for 16- and 17- year-olds.

- San Diego Registrar of Voters is hosting a virtual public consultation meeting on January 11, 2022, 10:00AM - 12:00PM, to inform senior citizens and persons with disabilities of upcoming changes to voting in the June 7, 2022, Gubernatorial Primary Election. [Click here](#) for more information.

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!

California Department of Public Health

NEW: [AFL 21-51](#) to Skilled Nursing Facilities, December 13, 2021

Notifies SNFs of the chaptering of [AB 1585 \(Chapter 181, Statutes of 2021\)](#) that requires a SNF's IP to have specified training, and qualifications.

NEW: [AFL 21-52](#) to Intermediate Care Facilities/Developmental Disabled, December 13, 2021

Provides Intermediate Care Facilities with recommendations for residents/clients that leave the facility to participate in day program services during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

NEW: [AFL 21-49](#), to Long-Term Care Facilities, December 8, 2021

Provides COVID-19 infection control recommendations during holiday celebrations for residents, families, and facilities. This includes guidance for private gatherings, resident testing and placement after returning to the facility, and communal activities in facilities.

[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.

View other AFLs at the [All Facilities Letter](#) webpage.

California Department of Social Services

NEW! [PIN 21-50-ASC](#) to All Adult and Senior Care Program Licensees, December 10, 2021

Announces an upcoming informational call with Adult and Senior Care (ASC) licensees and their staff on December 15, 2021, regarding COVID-19 updates on variants and use of monoclonal antibodies, strategies for working with challenging visitors, and best practices

in caring for persons in care diagnosed with COVID-19.

Informational Call via Zoom Wednesday, December 15, 2021 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Click the link to join the webinar:

<https://ucsf.zoom.us/j/93700432518?pwd=dlp5T2xKSElrQkU1ZnVXZC8vVUNpQT09>

Passcode: 167686 Webinar ID: 937 0043 2518

[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.

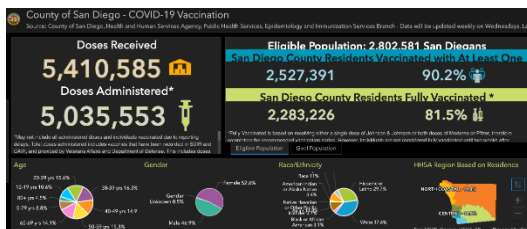
[PIN 21-49-ASC](#) to All Adult and Senior Care Program Licensees, November 17, 2021
Supersedes in part PIN 21-17.2-ASC, dated May 14, 2021, and provides specific updates to communal dining and entertainment. PIN 21-49-ASC also provides new guidance related to transportation of residents and maintains guidance on non-essential services and group activities.

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

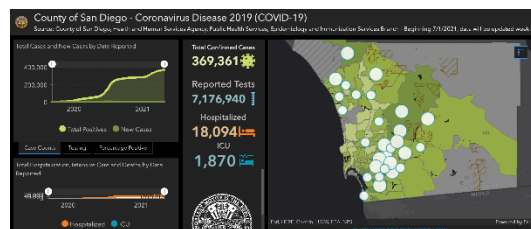
COVID-19 UPDATES & RESOURCES

[COVID-19 Watch: Weekly COVID-19 Surveillance Report \(12/8/21\)](#)

[COVID-19 Weekly Update Presentation \(12/8/21\)](#)



[County of San Diego - COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard](#)



[County of San Diego - COVID-19 Dashboard](#)



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

The CDC allocates 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. Not every LTC pharmacy in California is enrolled in the the Federal Retail Pharmacy Program (FRPP). To request vaccines from your contracted LTC pharmacy:

1. Enroll in the San Diego Immunization Registry: <http://www.sdiz.org/cair-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

COVID-19 Omicron Variant

The first [COVID-19 Omicron variant case was identified in San Diego County](#) on December 9, 2021. The County is monitoring for the Omicron variant and will report any other cases when they are identified. To [protect yourself from the Omicron variant](#), you can get vaccinated and get a booster if you qualify, wear a well-fitting mask, get tested if you have COVID-19 symptoms, wash your hands frequently, and practice physical distancing.

Resources: Answers to Tough Questions: [Omicron Variant](#) | [CDPH Fact Sheet: Omicron Variant](#) | [CDC: Omicron Variant: What You Need to Know](#)

COVID-19 Booster Dose

Update - December 9, 2021: The Pfizer COVID-19 booster has been authorized for adolescents **ages 16 and 17**, at least 6 months after completing their primary vaccination series. Now everyone ages 16 and older who received their second Pfizer dose at least six months ago should get a booster dose.

Everyone 18 years and older who received their second Moderna dose at least six months ago or the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at least two months ago also should get a booster dose. No-cost booster vaccines are widely available throughout the region, including at medical providers' offices, pharmacies, health clinics, and County vaccination locations. Visit coronavirus-sd.com/vaccine for more information.

Resources: [COVID-19 Booster Vaccines](#) | [COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters Questions & Answers](#) | [COVID-19 Booster Dose Messaging & Outreach Tools](#) | **NEW:** [CDPH Statement Expanded Pfizer-BioNTech Booster Eligibility for 16- and 17- year-olds](#)

COVID-19 Vaccines for Children 5-11

The Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is authorized for children and adolescents ages 5 and up. The vaccine is a 2-dose series given 3 weeks apart. Parents should take their children to their primary pediatrician for a vaccine, or they can go to [MyTurn.ca.gov](https://myturn.ca.gov), a County-operated [COVID-19 vaccination site](#), pharmacy, or clinic that has the Pfizer vaccine.

Resources: [Video: COVID-19 Vaccines for Children](#) | [COVID-19 Vaccine for 5-11 Year-Olds Reminders](#) | Fact Sheet: COVID-19 Vaccine for Youth Ages 5-11 in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) | [Myths & Facts About COVID-19 Vaccines for Children](#)



CDPH Guidance for K-12 Schools

As of November 24, there was an update to the K-12 schools guidance about extracurricular activities. Visit [CDPH COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools in California, 2021-22 School Year](#) for more information.



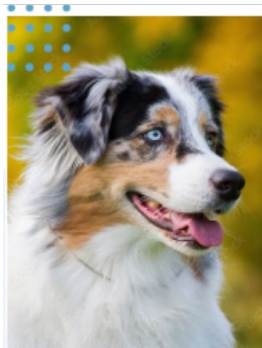
International Travel

Starting December 6, all air passengers, regardless of vaccination status, must show a negative COVID-19 test taken no more than 1 day before travel to the United States. For more information about travel, visit the [CDC International Travel](#) website.



Crucial Vaccination Conversations: A Roadmap to Engage Women and Their Communities

As women make approximately 80 percent of household decisions about health care in their families, women caregivers play an important role in immunization education. The Society for Women's Health Research created [Crucial Vaccination Conversations: A Roadmap to Engage Women and Their Communities](#), which is a flexible, open-ended tool for community vaccine outreach.



We Need Your Socks!

There is a new pilot program to train dogs to detect individuals with COVID-19 in schools. If you would like to register and help train dogs to detect COVID-19, call (510) 965-1485 or email SchoolDogCOVID-19Project@cdph.ca.gov after you test positive for COVID-19. You will be given a pair of socks and asked to

wear them for 30 minutes. All samples are anonymous. View the [flyer](#) for more information.

COVID-19 Vaccination & Testing

- [COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility](#)
 - [COVID-19 Vaccination in San Diego County](#)
 - [COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Questions & Answers](#)
 - Vaccination Site Flyers in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)
 - [Testing in San Diego County](#)
 - [COVID-19 Testing Options](#)
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COVID-19 Educational Materials

- [COVID-19 Educational Materials](#)
 - [Evaluating COVID-19 Information](#)
 - [COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions](#)
 - **NEW:** December 8, 2021: Local Doctors Address COVID-19 Misinformation. You can watch the recorded panel in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).
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Monoclonal Antibody Therapy

Monoclonal antibodies may help people with mild or moderate COVID-19 by preventing them from getting sicker and/or hospitalized due to COVID. Monoclonal antibodies are also available as a prevention method for medically eligible individuals. Call (619) 685-2500 for more information or to schedule an appointment. You are also encouraged to talk to your doctor to see if you are medically eligible for this treatment and to receive a referral. To learn more, visit the [COVID-19 Health Professionals Website](#).

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Given that influenza cases typically rise over the holidays and the winter months, County health officials are encouraging San Diegans to get vaccinated now. The influenza vaccine is now available at doctors' offices, pharmacies, the County's six Public Health Centers, and local community clinics. [Learn more about the flu](#) and find a vaccination site near you.



December Mental Health First Aid Trainings

Mental Health America of San Diego County is hosting a series of [Mental Health First Aid Trainings](#) in person or virtually throughout December. Learn about risk factors, symptoms, and impacts of mental illness, along with a five-step plan to support someone in emotional crisis. [Register for a training](#) or call (619) 543-0412, to host a training at your location.

Protecting Youth Mental Health

The U.S. Surgeon General's latest public health advisory ([Protecting Youth Mental Health](#)) is about mental health challenges among youth. The pandemic has worsened mental health for youth, especially among immigrants, students with disabilities, and youth of color from low-income families. The advisory describes this youth mental health crisis and provides recommendations for addressing it.



December Parks & Recreation Guide

The Department of Parks and Recreation [December Program Guide](#) features classes, programs, and events that are located throughout San Diego County.

Suit Up & Save Lives with the San Diego Blood Bank

Donate blood between November 26th and December 12th at any mobile drive or donation location throughout San Diego County and get a free Comic-Con Special Edition t-shirt and pins. Call (619) 400-8251 or visit sandiegobloodbank.org to find a location and schedule an appointment.

Safer Ways to Celebrate Holidays

For ways to safely celebrate holidays this season, view the [CDC Holiday Celebrations](#), [Spread Joy, Not COVID](#) fact sheet, & [Toolkit: Holiday Safety Tips 2021](#).



#CelebrateSafelySD

San Diegans are encouraged to share photos of how they celebrate this holiday season while being COVIDSafe using the hashtag #CelebrateSafelySD. Tag @Livewell_SD on Instagram, Twitter, and TikTok, or @LiveWellSD on Facebook to have your post featured!

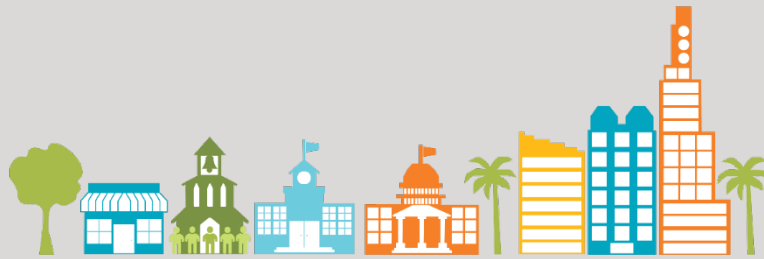
Shigella Fact Sheet

There is a new [Shigella fact sheet](#) available in English and Spanish. With the recent Shigella outbreak in San Diego County, this resource shares important information about how Shigella spreads, who is most at risk, how to prevent the spread, and what to do if you think you may be infected.

This email was sent to Katie.Anderson@sdcounty.ca.gov

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