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LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES



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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

SECTOR ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 29, 2021

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated recommendations to enhance protection for healthcare personnel, patients, and visitors, and ensure adequate staffing in healthcare facilities due to the surge in Omicron variant. Read the CDC's [Health Advisory on Rapid Increase of Omicron Variant Infections in the U.S.: Management of](#)

[Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure](#). Please also note the local San Diego CAHAN (12/29/21), Health Advisory Update #47 on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Management of Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure which provides key messages and information on the CDC health advisory.

Last week on 12/22/2021, the California Department of Public Health amended State Public Health Officer Orders to make boosters mandatory and to require additional testing of workers eligible for boosters who are not yet boosted at this critical time. All health care workers in specific facilities who are currently eligible for boosters must be fully vaccinated and boosted for COVID-19, receiving all recommended doses of the primary series of vaccines and a vaccine booster dose by **February 1, 2022**. Read the [Order of the State Public Health Officer Health Care Worker Vaccine Requirement](#) (for facilities licensed by CDPH) and the [Order of the State Public Health Officer Adult and Senior Care Facilities and Direct Care Worker Vaccine Requirement](#) (for facilities licensed by CDSS).

In addition, on December 23, 2021, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services updated FAQs regarding visitation. Click on the following link to read [QSO-20-39-NH Revised \(cms.gov\)](#) (pages 10-13).

Please continue practicing non-pharmaceutical interventions (masking, hand washing, physical distancing, etc.) and good ventilation strategies such as outdoor gatherings (weather permitting). Thank you for following your licensing entity's guidance for holiday gatherings. We wish you a happy and safe new year!

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

- [Health Advisory Update #47: Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Management of Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure](#)
- [Health Alert: Authorization of Paxlovid for Treatment of Mild to Moderate COVID-19, Distribution, Patient Prioritization, and Ethical Considerations](#)
- [AFL 21-34.1 COVID-19 Vaccine Requirement for Healthcare Personnel](#)
- [AFL 21-30 COVID-19 Testing, Vaccination Verification and Personal Protective Equipment for Health Care Personnel at the Various Types of Intermediate Care Facilities](#)
- [AFL-21-29 COVID-19 Testing, Vaccination Verification and Personal Protective Equipment for Health Care Personnel at Health Care Facilities](#)
- [AFL-21-28 COVID-19 Testing, Vaccination Verification and Personal Protective Equipment for Health Care Personnel at Skilled Nursing Facilities](#)

- [AFL 21-55 Deployment of Risk and Safety Solutions for Complaint/Facility Reported Incident Investigations](#)
- [AFL-20-53 COVID-19 Mitigation Plan Recommendations for Testing of Health Care Personnel and Residents at Skilled Nursing Facilities](#)
- [PIN 21-53-ASC](#) Regarding Adult and Senior Care Facility Worker COVID-19 Vaccination and Booster Requirements
- [PIN 21-52-ASC](#) Chaptered Legislation Affecting Adult and Senior Care Facilities: Summary and Implementation

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 Health Alert Network San Diego

NEW: Health Alert: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Management of Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure

Maintaining appropriate staffing in healthcare facilities is essential to providing a safe work environment for healthcare providers and for safe patient care. Given the current COVID-19 surge in cases, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has updated guidance on mitigation strategies of staffing shortages for healthcare facilities. Important changes in the guidance include an allowance for healthcare personnel (HCP) to have shortened isolation and removal of work restrictions following exposure depending on vaccination status (including booster), symptoms, and SARS-CoV-2 test results. [12-29-21.pdf](#) (sandiegocounty.gov)

NEW: Health Alert: Authorization of Paxlovid for Treatment of Mild to Moderate COVID-19, Distribution, Patient Prioritization, and Ethical Considerations

On December 22, 2021, the FDA issued an emergency use authorization (EUA) for Pfizer's Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir tablets and ritonavir tablets, co-packaged for oral use) for the treatment of mild-to-moderate coronavirus disease in adults and pediatric patients (12 years of age and older weighing at least 40 kilograms). The federal government will be allocating Paxlovid to states, and the California Department of Public Health will allocate

Paxlovid to jurisdictions based on new COVID-19 cases and an equity measure. Given the limited amount of Paxlovid available, product scarcity is expected. The attached Health Alert outlines suggested prioritization of patients for Paxlovid and ethical considerations in settings of limited availability. For the entire Health Advisory, please click link: [CAHAN 12-23-21.pdf \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)

Health Advisory: US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) Recommends Screening All Adults under Age 80 for Hepatitis C

The USPSTF now recommends screening all adults, aged 18-79 years, including those who are pregnant, at once for Hepatitis C virus, regardless of risk factors (Grade B recommendation).

For the entire Health Advisory, please click link: [CAHAN 12-20-21.pdf \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)

California Department of Public Health

NEW! [AFL 21-34.1](#) to All Facilities, December 27, 2021

Notifies all facilities of the December 22, 2021 [Public Health Order](#) and requires HCP to receive boosters and be up to date with vaccinations by February 1, 2022, unless exempt. This revision also updates the testing requirements to require twice weekly COVID-19 testing for unvaccinated exempt HCP and booster-eligible HCP who have not yet received their booster all HCP regardless of vaccination status in an acute care or long-term care setting and requires weekly testing COVID-19 testing for unvaccinated exempt HCP and booster-eligible HCP who have not yet received their booster in other health care settings.

NEW! [AFL-21-30](#) to Intermediate Care Facilities, December 27, 2021

The [Public Health Order](#) issued July 26, 2021 becomes effective August 9, 2021. This AFL requires twice-weekly SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic screening testing for HCP that are unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated. Facilities must develop and implement processes for verifying the vaccination status of all HCP, and for obtaining and tracking documentation of results of weekly SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic screening testing from HCP who are not fully vaccinated when reasonably possible with full compliance no later than August 23, 2021. This AFL revision notifies all facilities of the December 22, 2021 [Public Health Order](#) and requires HCP to be up to date with vaccinations and receive boosters by

February 1, 2022, unless exempt. This revision also updates the testing requirements to require at least twice weekly COVID-19 testing for all unvaccinated exempt HCP and booster-eligible HCP who have not yet received their booster. Facilities must begin testing of all booster-eligible workers who have not yet received their booster by December 27, 2021 and be in full compliance by January 7, 2022.

NEW! [AFL-21-29](#) to All Clinics, December 27, 2021

Requires weekly SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic screening testing for healthcare personnel (HCP) that are unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated working the above specified in health care facilities. Facilities must develop and implement processes for verifying the vaccination status of all HCP, and for obtaining and tracking documentation of results of weekly SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic screening testing from HCP who are unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated as soon as reasonably possible with full compliance no later than August 23, 2021. Notifies all facilities of the December 22, 2021 [Public Health Order](#) and requires HCP be up to date with vaccinations and receive boosters by February 1, 2022, unless exempt. This revision also updates the testing requirements to require at least weekly COVID-19 testing for unvaccinated exempt HCP and booster-eligible HCP who have not yet received their booster. Facilities must begin testing of all booster-eligible HCP who have not yet received their booster by December 27, 2021 and be in full compliance by January 7, 2022.

NEW! [AFL-21-28](#) to Skilled Nursing Facilities, December 27, 2021

Requires SNFs to develop and implement processes for verifying the vaccination status of all HCP and for obtaining and tracking documentation of results of SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic screening testing from HCP who are unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated and includes additional PPE requirements. These requirements are effective August 9 and should begin as soon as reasonably possible, with full compliance no later than August 23, 2021. This AFL revision notifies all facilities of the December 22, 2021 Public Health Order and requires HCP to be up to date with vaccinations and receive boosters by February 1, 2022, unless exempt. This revision also requires at least twice weekly COVID-19 testing for all HCP for unvaccinated exempt HCP and booster-eligible HCP who have not yet received their booster in long-term care settings. Facilities must begin testing of all booster-eligible HCP who have not yet received their booster by December 27, 2021 and be in full compliance by January 7, 2022.

NEW! [AFL 21-55](#) to Skilled Nursing Facilities, December 23, 2021

The AFL announces that beginning January 10, 2022, the CDPH is deploying the Risk and Safety Solutions Complaint/Facility Reported Incident (FRI) Survey Tool for complaint/FRI investigations in phases by district office. Facility-authorized users may access their

Statement of Deficiencies and submit their plans of corrections using the [RSS website](#).

NEW! [AFL-20-53](#) to Skilled Nursing Facilities, December 27, 2021

This AFL provides updated recommendations from the California Department of Public Health for SNFs conducting diagnostic screening testing of SNF HCP and response-driven testing of SNF residents and HCP to prevent spread of COVID-19 in the facility informed by [CDC recommendations](#) and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services requirements. This AFL includes [updated CDC guidance](#) related to quarantine and outbreak investigations. Notifies SNFs of the December 22, 2021 [Public Health Order](#) and requires SNF HCP to receive boosters and be up to date with vaccinations by February 1, 2022, unless exempt. This revision also updates the testing requirements to require twice weekly COVID-19 testing for unvaccinated exempt HCP and booster-eligible HCP who have not yet received their booster. Facilities must begin testing of all booster-eligible HCP who have not yet received their booster by December 27, 2021. CDPH strongly recommends that all HCP in SNFs (including those that are fully vaccinated and boosted) undergo at least twice weekly screening testing.

[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.

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

California Department of Social Services

NEW! [PIN 21-53-ASC](#) to All Adult and Senior Care Program Licensees, December 28, 2021

Provides notification regarding update COVID-19 vaccination and booster requirements for all workers of ASC facilities. This PIN informs licensees that workers currently eligible for boosters who provide services or work in indoor settings where (1) care is provided to individuals, or (2) persons in care have access for any purpose, are required to be fully vaccinated and receive a booster dose for COVID-19 no later than **February 1, 2022**, if eligible. Workers not yet eligible for boosters must be in compliance no later than 15 days after the recommended timeframe as specified in the table below for receiving the booster dose.

NEW! [PIN 21-52-ASC](#) to All Adult and Senior Care Program Licensees, December 28, 2021

Provides a summary of and implementation information for legislation chaptered in 2021 affecting licensed Adult and Senior Care facilities. The changes to the statutes referenced in this PIN become operative January 1, 2022.

[PIN 21-51-ASC](#) to All Adult and Senior Care Program Licensees, December 15, 2021
Informs Adult and Senior Care (ASC) licensees about the availability of both the third (additional) dose and booster dose of COVID-19 vaccines.

[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 in San Diego County

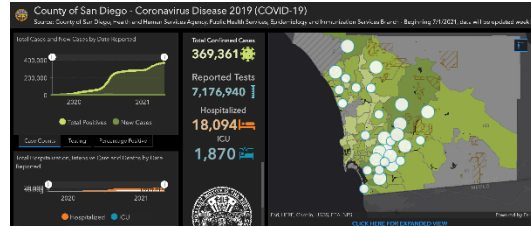


COVID-19 Watch

Weekly Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)
Surveillance Report

[COVID-19 Watch: Weekly COVID-19
Surveillance Report](#) (12/22/21)

[COVID-19 Weekly
Update Presentation](#) (12/22/21)



[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

UPDATED: Please see links and contacts information below for additional retail pharmacies that offer on-site clinics:

World Pharmacy

- A minimum of 10 participants is required for on-site vaccination services
- To schedule an on-site clinic with World Pharmacy, call 619-303-8800

Medical Center Pharmacy

- A minimum of 20 Participants is required (facilities in proximity may be grouped together to meet requirement)
- To reach Medical Center Pharmacy and request their booster clinic services, call: Michelle Darnelle at 619-206-0117

Rite Aid (www.riteaid.com/covid-19/community-clinics)

- A minimum of 25 participants is required per clinic (facilities in proximity may be grouped together to meet requirement)
- Must be located in a community served by Rite Aid

Albertsons (www.albertsons.com/pharmacy/enterprise-solutions.html)

- For SoCal, submit request to chi.nguyen4@albertsons.com
- A minimum of 25 participants is required per clinic

CVS (www.cvshealth.com/covid-19/return-ready/vaccination/core)

- A minimum of 30 appointments or participants is required per clinic
- All locations must be within 75 miles of a local CVS Pharmacy
- Question? Call 866-834-9579 (6AM to 5 PM PT Monday-Friday) or email vaccineclinics@cvshealth.com

Walmart

- [Vaccine Clinic Interest Survey](#)

Costco

- Submit request to betharnold@costco.com and rdant@costco.com
- A minimum of 40 participants is required per clinic

Health Mart (Independent Pharmacies)

- [Health Mart COVID-19 Community Vaccine Clinic Interest Form](#)

Topco (Raley's, Save Mart)

- Submit request to fzaidi@topco.com

Kroger (Ralphs) (www.krogerhealth.com/COVIDCarepartner)

- A minimum of 100 participants is required per clinic
- Roughly within a 30-mile radius of a pharmacy location

If you have residents that are immobile or unable to leave the facility (such as those with dementia or behavioral health challenges) and the resources above are not able to accommodate your facility for an on-site vaccination clinic, please email COVID-HealthCareStatus@sdcounty.ca.gov. Due to a high number of requests, it may take our County team a few weeks to complete incoming vaccination clinic requests.

Mask Mandate for Indoor Public Places

Per the [CDPH Face Coverings Guidance](#), starting on December 15, Californians must wear a mask in all indoor public settings, regardless of their vaccination status. The indoor face covering mandate will last at least through January 15, 2022, when California will make further recommendations as needed.

For more information, check out the [CDPH Face Coverings Q&A](#). [Masking signage](#) has also been updated.

Updated Mega Events Guidance

The [Beyond the Blueprint Mega Events Guidance](#) was updated on December 13. People who cannot provide proof of full COVID-19 vaccination status at a Mega Event must get a negative COVID-19 test result within 1 day for an antigen test and 2 days for a PCR test before the event.

CDPH Travel Advisory

On December 13, CDPH released an updated [Travel Advisory](#) to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and its variants.

All travelers arriving in or returning to California from other states or countries should follow [CDC travel guidance](#) and test 3-5 days upon arrival. All travelers who test positive or develop [symptoms of COVID-19](#) should isolate and follow [public health recommendations](#).

View the [Travel Guidelines Factsheet](#) for more information.



COVID-19 Omicron Variant

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

The COVID-19 booster dose is recommended for everyone ages 16 and older. 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](#) | [Boosters Questions & Answers](#) | [Booster Dose Messaging & Outreach Tools](#)



CDPH Toolkit: Prevent a Winter COVID-19 Surge

In response to the increase in cases and hospitalizations, and to slow the spread of Delta and the Omicron variants, CDPH created a toolkit to help [Prevent a Winter COVID-19 Surge](#). Visit the toolkit for a fact sheet and social media messages to share with your networks.

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.

COVID-19 Vaccination & Testing



- [COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility](#)
 - [COVID-19 Vaccination in San Diego County](#)
 - [Testing in San Diego County](#)
 - [COVID-19 Testing Options](#)
 - [Video: How to Use a COVID-19 Self-Test](#)
-

COVID-19 Educational Materials

- [COVID-19 Educational Materials](#)
- [Evaluating COVID-19 Information](#)
- [COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions](#)

- December 8, 2021: Local Doctors Address COVID-19 Misinformation. You can watch the recorded panel in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).



Monoclonal Antibody Therapy

Monoclonal antibodies are used for treatment and prevention to keep eligible individuals from getting very sick and/or hospitalized due to COVID. Monoclonal antibodies are authorized for all ages, including younger pediatric patients and newborns. 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

5 Ways to Prevent Winter Home Fires

Holiday decorations cause an average of 790 winter fires per year across the county. Check out the San Diego County Fire Protection District's [5 recommendations](#) for being fire-safe this holiday season.



Get Your Flu Vaccine!

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. Californians can

also schedule a flu vaccine appointment on [My Turn](#). [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.

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.



County's Election Administration Plan

The Registrar of Voters office is hosting a series of meetings, inviting the public to have a say in the County's new Election Administration Plan. The meetings begin in December 2021 and continue through January 2022. Attendees can give input on where vote centers and ballot drop boxes should be located, and give feedback on voter education and outreach plans. Visit the [Registrar's Calendar](#) for all upcoming consultation meetings.



#CelebrateSafelySD

San Diegans are encouraged to share photos of how they celebrate this holiday season while being COVIDSafe using the hashtag #CelebrateSafelySD. For ways to safely celebrate holidays this season, view the [CDC Holiday](#)

[Celebrations, Spread Joy, Not COVID](#) fact sheet, & [Toolkit: Holiday Safety Tips 2021](#).

Community Testing, Vaccination, & Outreach Events

Visit the [Community Testing, Vaccination, and Outreach Events Calendar](#) for upcoming events in San Diego County. You can also submit events to be added to this calendar online.

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

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