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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

January 13, 2022

We continue to see an increase in cases and outbreaks at our facilities and understand it is a very difficult time. Due to the critical staffing shortages currently being experienced across the health care continuum because of the rise in the Omicron variant, effective January 8, 2022 through February 1, 2022, CDPH is temporarily waiving the return-to-work criteria for HCP of SNFs, Acute Hospitals, and Psychiatric Hospitals. Please reference [AFL 21-08.7](#) which was released on January 8<sup>th</sup> for this updated guidance and supersedes AFL 21-08.6.

Testing has been in high demand. If your facility is in need of testing kits please reach out to [logs.testing.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:logs.testing.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov). The County of San Diego Public Health Laboratory has prioritized testing specimens of staffs and residents in facilities who are in outbreak. SNFs without an outbreak will need to use commercial laboratories until further notice. Any other long term care facility that is not in outbreak and highly utilizing the County of San Diego Public Health lab should also utilize commercial laboratories for their testing. Please click [here](#) to view commercial lab resources.

The recently amended State Public Health Officer Orders make boosters mandatory for

health care workers in facilities. Those who are currently eligible for boosters must be fully vaccinated and boosted for COVID-19 by February 1, 2022. For vaccination sites for staff, visit [COVID-19 Vaccines](#). You can also utilize local pharmacies and staff's primary healthcare providers.

We know our residents are a very vulnerable population and are seeing that boosters are working in decreasing hospitalizations and deaths due to the Omicron variant. If you have residents who are immobile and need boosting please email [COVID-HealthcareStatus@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:COVID-HealthcareStatus@sdcounty.ca.gov) and one of our team members can help set up on site assistance.

Lastly, please note the [Requirements for Visitors in Acute Health Care and Long-Term Care Settings](#) to require additional testing of visitors is in place until February 7, 2022. This applies to SNFs, ICFs, and all Adult and Senior Care Residential Facilities licensed by the California Department of Social Services. More specific guidance through All Facility Letters (AFLs) and Provider Information Notices (PINs) will be distributed to facilities in the upcoming days.

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

- [Health Advisory Update #48: Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Management of Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure](#)
- [AFL 21-08 Guidance on Quarantine and Isolation for Health Care Personnel \(HCP\) Exposed to SARS-CoV-2 and Return to Work for HCP with COVID-19](#)
- [AFL 22-01 Centralization of Program Flexibility Application Process](#)

For other questions, email [COVID-LTC@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:COVID-LTC@sdcounty.ca.gov) or for more information for long-term care facilities, visit [www.coronavirus-sd.com/LTC](http://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 #48: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Management of Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure**

The California Department of Public Health has announced temporary guidance on

Quarantine and Isolation for certain Health Care Personnel (HCP) (AFL 21-08). From January 8, 2022 until February 1, 2022, HCP who test positive for SARS-CoV-2 and are asymptomatic may return to work immediately without isolation and without testing. HCP who have been exposed and are asymptomatic may return to work immediately without quarantine and without testing. These HCP must wear an N95 respirator for source control. Assigning COVID positive staff to the care of COVID positive patients is recommended when practicable. The HCP covered by AFL 21-08 is limited to General Acute Care Hospitals (GACHs), Acute Psychiatric Hospitals (APHs), Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs) and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel. The San Diego County Health Officer Order on Quarantine issued January 3, 2022 allows asymptomatic HCP not covered by AFL 21-08 to return to work seven days after close contact with negative diagnostic test results if they remained asymptomatic throughout quarantine. [1-11-22.pdf \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)

**Health Alert #47: 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 \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)

**Health Alert#46: 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 \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)

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## California Department of Public Health

**NEW!** [AFL 21-08.7](#) to General Acute Care Hospitals, Acute Psychiatric Hospitals, and Skilled Nursing Facilities, January 8, 2022

Notifies facilities that from January 8, 2022 until February 1, 2022, HCP who test positive for SARS-CoV-2 and are asymptomatic, may return to work immediately without isolation and without testing, and HCPs who have been exposed and are asymptomatic may return to work immediately without quarantine and without testing. These HCPs must wear an N95 respirator for source control.

**NEW!** [AFL 22-01](#) to All Facilities, January 7, 2022

Provides the rollout schedule for centralization of the program flexibility process by district office and prioritization criteria for registering users for the online application. This AFL announces the new online application for Program Flexibility and Patient Needs Waiver and Workforce Shortage Waiver Applications and provides information on how to register as a user.

[AFL 20-35.6](#) to All Facilities, December 31, 2021

Notifies all facilities of a temporary waiver of specified statutory and regulatory requirements for CNAs due to the state of emergency related to the COVID-19 outbreak. Informs all facilities and applicants that the temporary waiver of specified regulatory requirements for initial certification, renewal, and expired certification have been extended until March 31, 2022, in compliance with Executive Order [N-21-21](#) (PDF). The waivers for tuberculosis testing, reciprocity, and report of address change will expire effective December 31, 2021. This AFL informs applicants and certificate holders how to obtain/maintain an active/employable status after the expiration of the listed waivers.

[AFL 20-40.3](#) to All Facilities and Nurse Assistant Training Programs, December 31, 2021

Notifies all facilities of a temporary waiver of specified statutory and regulatory requirements for NATPs and nursing facilities due to the state of emergency related to the COVID-19 outbreak. This revision also notifies all facilities the temporary waiver of specified regulatory requirements contained in this AFL are extended until March 31, 2022.

[AFL 20-49.4](#) to All Facilities, December 31, 2021

Notifies all facilities of a temporary waiver of specified statutory and regulatory requirements for HHAs due to the state of emergency related to the COVID-19 outbreak. This AFL also notifies all facilities that the temporary waiver of specified statutory and

regulatory requirements is extended until March 31, 2022.

[AFL 20-57.3](#) to All Facilities, December 31, 2021

This AFL notifies all HHA Training Programs of a temporary waiver of specified statutory and regulatory requirements for HHA Training Programs due to the state of emergency related to the COVID-19 outbreak. This revision also notifies all facilities that the temporary waiver of specified statutory and regulatory requirements is extended until March 31, 2022.

[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.

[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.

[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.

[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.

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

This AFL provides updated recommendations from the CDPH 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. 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.

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

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## California Department of Social Services

CDSS announces that the [Adult and Senior Care Winter 2021-22 Quarterly Update](#) has been published.

[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.

[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.

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

### COVID-19 UPDATES & RESOURCES

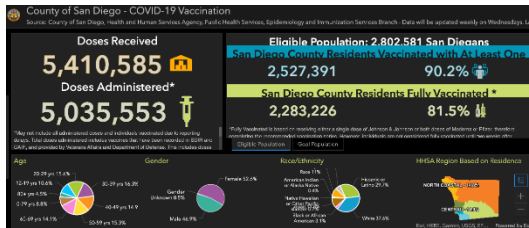
#### COVID-19 in San Diego County



#### COVID-19 Watch

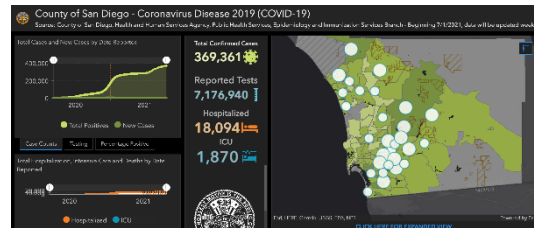
Weekly Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)  
Surveillance Report

[COVID-19 Watch: Weekly COVID-19 Surveillance Report \(1/5/22\)](#)



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

[COVID-19 Weekly Update Presentation \(1/5/22\)](#)



[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](mailto:cvrs@guardianpharmacy.net)
  - Omnicare of San Diego: [Chadd.Eno@omnicare.com](mailto:Chadd.Eno@omnicare.com)
  - Pharmerica (Innovatix): [ImmunizeLTC@pharmerica.com](mailto:ImmunizeLTC@pharmerica.com)
  - SNP Pharmacy LLC (MHA): [vaccines@snp-rx.com](mailto:vaccines@snp-rx.com)



**UPDATED:** Please view contact information for [additional retail pharmacies](#) that offer on-site clinics:

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](mailto: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.**

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### Updated Isolation & Quarantine Guidelines

The San Diego County Public Health Officer Orders for [Isolation](#) and [Quarantine](#) have been updated as of 1/3/22.

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### Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Recommendations

The CDC has [recommended](#) that individuals to receive a mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) over the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, including for booster doses. For more information, visit the [Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#).

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### Oral Antiviral Treatments for COVID-19

The FDA recently authorized two oral antiviral treatments for COVID-19: [Merck's molnupiravir](#) and [Pfizer's Paxlovid](#). The two COVID-19 oral treatments will be available in San Diego in the coming days. Please visit the [County News Center](#) for information about how the California Department Public Health will distribute the first shipments in San Diego County.

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### Mask Mandate for Indoor Public Places

**NEW:** Starting on December 15, Californians must wear a mask in all indoor public settings, regardless of their vaccination status. **The indoor face covering mandate**

**was extended at least through February 15, 2022** and then will be reevaluated. For more information, check out the [CDPH Face Coverings Q&A](#). [Masking signage](#) has also been updated.

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## Updated Mega Events Guidance

**NEW:** The [CDPH Beyond the Blue Print for Industry and Business and Sectors Guidance](#) was updated on December 31. 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.

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## 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](#)

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## 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](https://coronavirus-sd.com/vaccine) for more information.

**Resources:** [COVID-19 Booster Vaccines](#) | [Boosters Questions & Answers](#) | [Booster Dose Messaging & Outreach Tools](#)

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## **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.

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## **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.

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## **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](#)
-

## ANYONE ENTERING THIS FACILITY:

Per Centers for Disease Control guidelines and Cal/OSHA regulations:

Not fully vaccinated?  
**Mask required**

Fully vaccinated?  
**Mask recommended**



## 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



### Love Your Heart Week of Action

Join the Heart Health Movement this February! The best way to know if you have high blood pressure is to have it checked, so take control of your heart health by knowing your numbers and what they mean. Make an appointment with your primary care physician or check it with a home blood pressure cuff. Visit [LoveYourHeartSD.org](http://LoveYourHeartSD.org) to learn more.



## Get Your Flu Vaccine!

The influenza vaccine is 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.

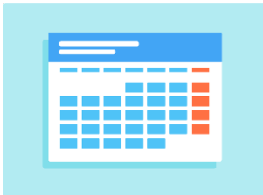
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## January Parks & Recreation Guide

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

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## 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.