

[View this email in your browser](#)



Live Well San Diego LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES



[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Tik Tok](#)

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 6, 2022

Happy 2022! As this new year begins, we are seeing a surge in Omicron cases across San Diego County and the United States. As a result, there is an increase in demand at County testing sites with significantly longer wait times and turnaround times for results. We

encourage you to make appointments and use commercial testing sites when possible. With increasing cases causing staff shortages, please see the CDC's [Strategies to Mitigate Healthcare Personnel Staffing Shortages](#) for best practices to reduce staffing burdens. Additionally, the CDC has updated its guidance on [Interim Guidance for Managing Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure to SARS-CoV-2](#). If you are a SNF, please refer to [AFL 21-08.6](#) where HCP will need a negative test after isolation and quarantine.

Given the increasing demand for testing, the County of San Diego Public Health Laboratory has implemented a prioritized criterion for testing specimens of staffs and residents from SNFs that are identified as a new outbreak setting and require initial testing to support the outbreak response. Until further notice, SNFs without an outbreak will need to utilize commercial laboratory resources for testing services to test staff and residents. Please click [here](#) to view commercial lab resources.

The recently amended State Public Health Officer Orders make boosters mandatory and 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). For vaccination sites for staff, visit [COVID-19 Vaccines](#).

Lastly, [Requirements for Visitors in Acute Health Care and Long-Term Care Settings](#) to require additional testing of visitors eligible for boosters who are not yet boosted, are necessary at this critical time. 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:

- CDSS published the [Adult and Senior Care Winter 2021-22 Quarterly Update](#)
- [AFL 20-35.6](#) Suspension of Professional Certification Requirements for Certified Nurse Assistants (CNAs)

- [AFL 20-40.3](#) Suspension of Specified Regulatory Requirements for Nurse Assistant Training Programs (NATPs)
- [AFL 20-49.4](#) Suspension of Professional Certification Requirements for Home Health Aides (HHAs)
- [AFL 20-57.3](#) Suspension of Professional Certification Requirements for Home Health Aide Training Programs (HHA Training Programs)
- [AFL 21-08.6](#) Guidance on Quarantine for Health Care Personnel (HCP) Exposed to SARS-CoV-2 and Return to Work for HCP with COVID-19

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

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 \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)

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 \(sandiegocounty.gov\)](#)



California Department of Public Health

NEW! [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.

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

This AFL 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 in compliance with Executive Order [N-21-21](#) (PDF)

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

This AFL 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, in compliance with Executive Order [N-21-21](#) (PDF).

NEW! [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 in compliance with Executive Order [N-21-21](#) (PDF).

NEW! [AFL 21-08.6](#) to General Acute Care Hospitals, Acute Psychiatric Hospitals, Skilled Nursing Facilities, December 30, 2021

Provides hospitals and SNF with updated guidance on exposure risk assessment and work restriction for asymptomatic HCP with SARS-CoV-2 exposures (quarantine) and work restrictions for HCP diagnosed with SARS-CoV-2 infection (isolation). This revision incorporates updated Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance on [Interim Guidance for Managing Healthcare Personnel with SARS-CoV-2 Infection or Exposure to SARS-CoV-2](#) and [Strategies to Mitigate Healthcare Personnel Staffing Shortages](#). Pursuant to Welfare and Institutions Code section 14126.033 a SNF's receipt of the annual increase in the weighted average Medi-Cal reimbursement rate may be conditioned on the facility's good faith compliance with CDPH AFLs related to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, as a result the recommendations included in this AFL are requirements for SNFs.

[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 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 21-55](#) 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](#).

[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! 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 COVID-19
Surveillance Report](#) (12/29/21)

[COVID-19 Weekly
Update Presentation](#) (12/29/21)

[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/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

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.**



Updated Isolation & Quarantine Guidelines

The CDC has updated the COVID-19 isolation and quarantine guidelines. The updates include a shortened isolation period of 5 days for most people with no symptoms who test positive for COVID-19. Visit the [Isolation and Quarantine](#) guidelines for a full list of updates. The County is updating its websites, communication materials, and health orders accordingly.

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](#).



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.



Mask Mandate for Indoor Public Places

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

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.

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

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 to learn more.



5 Ways to Prevent Winter Home Fires

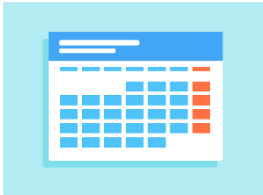
Holiday decorations cause an average of 790 winter fires per year across the county. Check out the San Diego County Fire Protection District's [5 recommendations](#) for being fire-safe this holiday season.

Get Your Flu Vaccine!

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.

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.



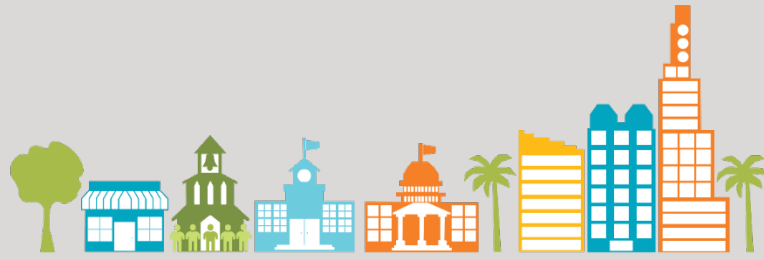
Community Testing, Vaccination, & Outreach Events

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 COVID-LTC@sdcounty.ca.gov

[Update your email preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

County of San Diego · 1255 Imperial Ave Ste 720 · County Of San Diego / Office Of Strategy And Innov ·
San Diego, CA 92101-7402 · USA



LIVEWELLSD.ORG