CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

WEEKLY UPDATE
LONG-TERM CARE AND RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES

Friday, April 16, 2021

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

As of April 15, 2021, more loved ones of your residents and staff are now able to sign up for their COVID-19 vaccination. The State and County have **expanded eligibility to include individuals 16 years of age and older**. For more information or to schedule a vaccination appointment at one of the County-supported sites, visit www.VaccinationSuperStation.com.

The County is following suit with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration that was announced on April 13, 2021, to **pause the use of the Johnson & Johnson COIVD-19 vaccine**. The pause was recommended after reports of a rare type of blood clot found in six recently vaccinated women ages 18-48 in the United States. About 58,000 San Diegans have received this vaccine with no known severe adverse effects reported. For San Diegans who recently got this vaccine (within the last few weeks), please monitor yourself for the following symptoms and contact your health care provider if you experience severe headache, abdominal pain, leg pain, or shortness of breath.

As a reminder, **if one of your fully vaccinated staff or residents are asymptomatic and test positive**, please isolate the individual and contact County Epidemiology at **619-692-8499** for further assessment. There are many factors to be considered, including asymptomatic infection, circulating SARS-CoV-2 variants, and vaccine breakthrough. You may consider repeating the COVID test using a molecular (e.g. PCR) method to aid in the assessment.

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

- **CAHAN San Diego Health Advisory Updates:**

- Health Advisory Update #31 – April 15, 2021: **COVID-19 Vaccine Adverse Events and Update** (Johnson & Johnson vaccine)
- Health Advisory Update #30 – April 13, 2021: **COVID-19 Vaccine Update**
- Health Advisory Update #29 – April 12, 2021: **COVID-19 Vaccine Update**

- **California Department of Public Health All Facilities Letters (AFLs):**
  - [AFL 20-22.7](#) provides guidance for limiting the transmission of COVID-19 in long-term care facilities

- **California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division Provider Information Notices (PINs):**
  - [PIN 21-21-ASC](#) addresses Adult Day Program operations and vaccinations during the COVID-19 pandemic
  - [PIN 21-20-ASC](#) provides information on accessing the COVID-19 vaccine
  - [PIN 21-05 CCLD](#) introduces a new background check website

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [COVID-19 Guidance for Adult Day Service Center](#) Staff, Participants, and Their Caregivers

- Update: A [Consumer Alert](#) from the Federal Trade Commission has issued points to know regarding scammers targeting [FEMA's COVID-19 Funeral Assistance](#) (FEMA has <u>not</u> sent any notifications and do <u>not</u> contact people before they register for assistance).

- **Reminder:** If you are experiencing vaccine hesitancy from staff or residents at your facility, we have a team comprised of doctors and nurses that are available to provide an educational session/presentation on vaccine effectiveness and confidence. If you would like to request this, please email us at [COVID-LTC@sdcounty.ca.gov.](#)

As a reminder, if you have a positive COVID-19 case at your facility, please report it by calling the County of San Diego Public Health Epidemiology Unit at (619) 692-8499 or (858) 565-5255 for after-hours or on the weekend. The County as well as your State licensing departments are here to support you.

Please email us at [moc.logs.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov](#) if you need personal protective equipment. For other questions, please feel free to email us at [COVID-LTC@sdcounty.ca.gov](#) or visit our webpage at [www.coronavirus-sd.com/LTC](#).

Thank you for your continued efforts and partnership with the County of San Diego!

Announcements and News

New: Health Advisory Update #31: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Adverse Events and Update – April 15, 2021

Key Messages:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has provided clinical information on Cerebral Venous Sinus Thrombosis (CVST) following vaccination with the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine.
- Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices voted to continue a pause in the use of the Janssen vaccine.
- A Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity occurred on April 15, 2021 (*recording available here*).

For more information, please see the **attached PDF** titled "CAHAN+COVID-19+Vaccine+Update+4-15-21"

New: Health Advisory Update #30: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Update – April 13, 2021

Key Message:

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) have issued a joint statement recommending **pausing use of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine**.

For more information, please see the **attached PDF** titled "CAHAN+COVID-19+Vaccine+Update+4-13-21"

New: Health Advisory Update #29: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Update – April 12, 2021

Key Messages:

- Fully vaccinated people with no COVID-like symptoms do not need quarantine or testing (with some expectations) following an exposure to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People.
- CDC's test-based strategy should be considered for determining when to discontinue isolation in severely immunocompromised individuals according to CDC's guidance on Discontinuation of Transmission -Based Precautions and Disposition of Patients with SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Healthcare Settings.

- The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has authorized as eligible for vaccination, which started April 1, 2021, all individuals age 50 to 64 years of age.
- The next group to become eligible for vaccination will be individuals age 16 to 49 years of age starting April 15, 2021.

For more information, please see the **attached PDF** titled "CAHAN+COVID-19+Vaccine+Update+4-12-21"

California Department of Public Health

CDPH publishes news and All Facilities Letters (AFLs) regularly. If you would like to receive email notifications of AFLs, please submit your request to LNCPolicy@cdph.ca.gov.

New: AFL 20-22.7 to Long-Term Care Facilities– April 16, 2021

- Notifies long-term care (LTC) facilities of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance for improving their infection control and prevention practices to prevent the transmission of COVID-19, including guidance for visitation
- Authorizes LTC facilities to temporarily modify their facility's visitation policies in accordance with CMS and CDC COVID-19 guidance when necessary to protect the health and safety of residents, staff and the public
- Provides CDPH's visitation guidance for expanded opportunities for indoor in-room visitation and physical touch and infection control measures for fully vaccinated residents and visitors
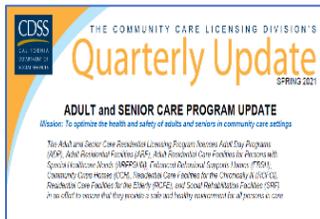- Includes additional guidelines for pediatric residents

CDPH COVID-19 Toolkit serves as a one-stop-shop for partners to access materials available for download and sharing in support of outreach and education. This toolkit has numerous videos, social media messages, infographics, handouts, fact sheets, and more.

Click here to see a full list of recent AFLs

California Department of Social Services

The Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) publishes Provider Information Notices (PINs) to communicate important license related information to CCLD-licensed providers. The local San Diego Adult and Senior Care Regional Office can be reached at (619) 767-2300 or CCLASCPSanDiegoRO@dss.ca.gov.
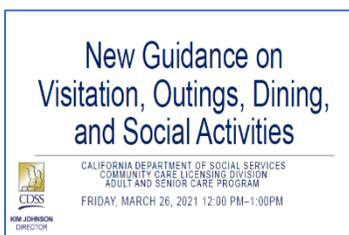

CDSS **Spring 2021 Quarterly Updates** available here.

NEW: PIN 21-21-ASC (April 15, 2021) addresses the Community Care Licensing Division support for Adult Day Programs to operate during the COVID-19 pandemic and provides information on COVID-19 vaccinations.

NEW: PIN 21-20-ASC (April 15, 2021) provides further information about how Adult and Senior Care residential licensees, facility staff, and residents can access the COVID-19 vaccine.

NEW: PIN 21-05 CCLD (April 13, 2021) introduces a new website to assist with checking on applicant's background check status.

PIN 21-04-CCLD (April 6, 2021) informs licensees about assistance available through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to assist with COVID-19 funeral expenses.

PIN 21-19-ASC (April 2, 2021) provides guidance to Adult and Senior Care Program Licensees on COVID-19 prevention and mitigation strategies for **persons in care with dementia** and **persons in care in memory care units**.

PowerPoint Slides (March 26, 2021) from the Informational Call Regarding COVID-19: New Guidance on Visitation, Outing, Dining, and Social Activities PIN 21-18-ASC

PIN 21-17-ASC (March 19, 2021) to all Adult and Senior Care Programs Residential Licensees provides updates for visitation, guidance on communal dining, group activities, non-essential services, residents returning from outings and new admissions.

[PIN 21-16-ASC](#) (March 15, 2021) to all Adult and Senior Care Programs Residential Licensees provides guidance to licensees about **antigen tests** in general, and specifically, about the Abbott BinaxNOW COVID-19 Ag Card Test Kit; includes addendums: 1) Precautions and Limitations, and 2) Fact Sheet for Persons in Care.

*Please see more information below on the San Diego County BinaxNOW Distribution Program to request kits.

[Click here to browse the full list of recent PINs](#)

County of San Diego
COVID-19 Diagnostic Antigen Test
BinaxNOW
Distribution Program

Reminder: Access to the **Abbott BinaxNOW POC antigen tests** is being coordinated by the federal government and State through our local Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator local program within the County. Kits are available in San Diego County for approved health care partners. These point-of-care (POC) antigen diagnostic tests detect the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and can provide results in less than 20 minutes. Antigen tests have been added to the COVID-19 testing arena to meet the growing demand.

If you are interested in receiving these test kits, note a few of the **following requirements** which are listed in the attachment in further detail:

- Obtain (and attach) a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) waiver
- Read and acknowledge responsibilities in the attached BinaxNOW Distribution Program
- Allow for a minimum of 48 hours for process and 2-3 days for delivery

For more detailed information, please [click here](#).

Please email moc.logs.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov for more information.

COVID-19 Funeral Assistance

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will provide financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses (up to $9,000 per funeral and a maximum of $35,000 per application) incurred after January 20, 2020. FEMA is accepting applications for Funeral Assistance through their dedicated call center: **844-684-6333** | TTY: **800-462-7585**

Updated Fraud Alert: A [Consumer Alert](#) from the Federal Trade Commission has issued points to know below:

- FEMA will **not** contact you until you have called FEMA or have applied for assistance.
- The government will **not** ask you to pay anything to get this financial help.
- The government will **not** call, text, email, or contact you on social media and ask for your Social Security, bank account, or credit card number.
- Do **not** give your own or your deceased loved one's personal or financial information to anyone who contacts you out of the blue.

Please see FEMA's webpage [COVID-19 Funeral Assistance](#) and FEMA's [Funeral Assistance FAQs](#) for more information.

Early Treatment for COVID-19 is Available at the Monoclonal Antibody Reginal Center (MARC)

Reminder:

- Monoclonal antibodies have been shown in [clinical trials](#) to reduce COVID-19-related hospitalization and emergency room visits.
- The [Monoclonal Antibody Regional Center](#) is open to treat mild to moderate COVID-19 in adults and pediatric patients (12 years of age and older weighing at least 40 kg) with positive results of PCR or Rapid Antigen SARS-CoV-2 testing, and who are at high risk for progressing to severer COVID-19 and/or hospitalization. Treatment should be administered as soon as possible after positive results of SARS-CoV-2 testing, and within 10 days of symptom onset.
- **Escondido Location:** Palomar Medical Center Downtown, 555 East Valley Parkway, Escondido, CA 92025; open seven days a week from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM
- **New Site: Chula Vista Location**: Another MARC site will be opening on Monday, **April 19, 2021 at San Ysidro Health, 391 Oxford Street, Chula Vista,** CA 91911 (in the former Chula Vista Fire Station #5 building); open seven days a week from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
- Phone number is the same for both sites: **619-685-2500**

- Treatment is available at **no-cost** to those who live or work in San Diego County, regardless of health insurance or immigration status.

For questions, please email COVIDtreatment@sdcounty.ca.gov. For additional information, please visit www.sandiegocounty.gov/COVIDHealthProfessionals.

Please click on patient flyer links for more information:
MARC Patient Flyer (English), MARC Patient Flyer (Spanish)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Guidelines for Fully Vaccinated

Individuals to Safely Visit with Others

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance for vaccinated individuals and visitation – March 8, 2021. Please note, this is not intended for healthcare personnel or congregate settings. For more information, please see CDC Issues First Set of Guidelines on How Fully Vaccinated People Can Visit Safely with Others | CDC Online Newsroom | CDC.

It is recommended to **follow the strictest guidance** when there is a discrepancy.
Please always consult with your local licensing staff if you have questions.

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Visitation Guidance for

Skilled Nursing Facilities

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services revised Skilled Nursing Facilities visitation guidance – March 10, 2021. For details, please see QSO-20-39-NH Revised (cms.gov)

It is recommended to **follow the strictest guidance** when there is a discrepancy.
Please always consult with your local licensing staff if you have questions.

County of San Diego
Public Health Orders

Updated 4/7/21: County of San Diego [Public Health Order](#) Please note, section 15a (page 7), which refers to visitors and non-essential personnel, has not changed. Visitation aligns with and will defer to the most recent guidance by CDPH and CDSS.

County of San Diego [Order of the Public Health Officer - Quarantine of Persons Exposed to COVID-19](#) (4/5/2021): Please note, this guidance is for fully vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals and references healthcare workers and those in congregate settings.

📞 COVID-19 Helpful Hotlines

- **Public COVID-19 Call Center**: 1-833-422-4255, Monday-Friday 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM; Saturday and Sunday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM, for general questions about COVID-19, including vaccines, scheduling vaccination appointments through My Turn, return to school, testing, and more.

- [My Turn](#) **Call Center:** 1-833-422-4255 for Californians to sign up for a notification when it's their turn to get a vaccine.

- **Community Care Licensing Division Helpline:** A CCLD clinician will be available Monday – Friday (excluding holidays) during business hours of 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM to answer questions related to infection prevention and control. Additionally, a voicemail system is available for leaving a message after business hours, on weekends, and on holidays. **During business hours**:1-844-538-8766 (Press #7 when prompted); **After business hours, on weekends, and on holidays:** 1-833-498-2027

California COVID-19 Vaccination Program Update

Federal Retail Pharmacy Program Activation

The Federal Retail Pharmacy Program has been activated and some pharmacy partners include **CVS, Rite Aid, Walgreens, and Albertsons**. Target population includes people 65+ and healthcare workers. Appointments will be required. Eligible Californians should <u>not</u> contact individual stores for appointments or come to the store seeking a vaccination without an appointment. Eligible individuals should be directed to the following scheduling links below for an appointment:

CVS: https://www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine

Rite Aid: https://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/covid-qualifier

Walgreens: https://www.walgreens.com/topic/promotion/covid-vaccine.jsp

Albertsons: https://www.albertsons.com/pharmacy/covid-19.html
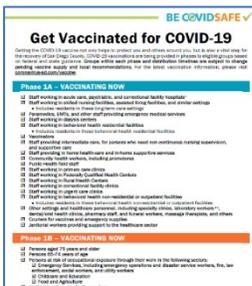
Additionally for CVS only, appointment can also be scheduled via CVS pharmacy app and eligible individuals without internet access can call **CVS at 800-746-7287** for assistance on scheduling.

For questions, please email: COVIDvaccinePharm@cdph.ca.gov

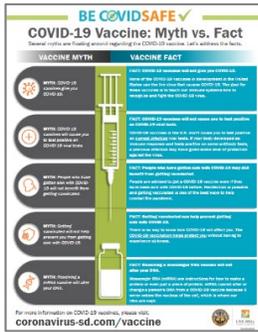# COVID-19 Vaccine Resources for Long-Term Care Facilities

Updated: As of April 15, 2021, the general population 16 years of age and older is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccination.

- Know Your Vaccination Phase (English)
- Know Your Vaccination Phase (Spanish)

Also, please continue to share the County COVID-19 Vaccine webpage for appointments with your staff and ambulatory residents.

Transportation- If you are aware of staff, ambulatory residents, and/or their family members who may need transportation to a vaccination site, the Metropolitan Transit System and North County Transit District are offering **free rides** for everyone in the region who needs a lift **to their vaccine appointment.** Ride any bus, trolley, SPRINTER or COASTER for FREE with proof of vaccine appointment. For more information, visit the MTS webpage.
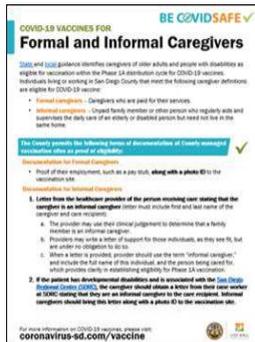
COVID-19 vaccine presentations are available through the *Live Well San Diego* **Speaker's Bureau** that provides free presentations delivered by volunteer medical professionals, including doctors and nurses, who are subject matter experts. Fill out an online interest form on our *Live Well San Diego* website to request a presentation.

COVID-19 Vaccine Myth vs. Fact handouts are available in English and Spanish.

Please click link below for the flyer:

COVID-19 Vaccine – Myth vs. Fact (English/Spanish)

Both **formal and informal caregivers** to elderly and people with disabilities are identified in the additional Phase 1A priority groups to receive the COVID-19 vaccine .

Please click links below for the flyers, including documentation needed:

COVID-19 Vaccination for Formal and Informal Caregivers (English)
COVID-19 Vaccination for Formal and Informal Caregivers (Spanish/Español)

Reminder: Please check out the County's webpage with COVID-19 educational materials in different languages. Please click here and scroll down the list of options in Spanish, Tagalog, Arabic, Aramaic, Chinese, Farsi, Japanese, Vietnamese, Korean, and more. The County COVID-19 Information and Resources in Other Languages webpage is a great resource.

Stay informed about COVID-19 vaccination information by bookmarking the County COVID-19 vaccine webpage. Information regarding how the COVID-19 vaccine works, safety, and phases of vaccine administration, and more can be found on this webpage.

COVID-19 Vaccine Community Conversation Toolbox

The County of San Diego has created the **COVID-19 Vaccine Community Conversation Toolbox**. This toolbox is primarily for healthcare workers (doctors and nurses who have been identified as trusted messengers of COVID-19 vaccine information) to have conversations about the COVID-19 vaccine. Fact sheets, links to important websites, handouts (English and Spanish), and Frequently Asked Questions are included.

CDC Vaccine Considerations

Please click here for some CDC vaccine considerations.

1. Both mRNA vaccines require a 2nd dose: Pfizer at 21 days and Moderna at 28 days
2. The second dose should NOT be administered any sooner than 21 days (Pfizer) or 28 days (Moderna)
3. The second dose of both mRNA vaccines may be administered up to 6 weeks after the first dose

Long-Term Care Facility Resources

Post Vaccine Considerations for Residents — While this guidance is intended for long-term care facilities, it could also be applied to patients in other healthcare settings. Considerations are based on the current understanding of signs and symptoms following COVID-19 vaccination, including timing and duration, and might change as experience with the vaccine accumulates.

Frequently Asked Questions about COVID-19 Vaccination in Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCF) — Making sure LTCF residents can receive COVID-19 vaccination as soon as vaccine is available will help save the lives of those who are most at risk of dying from COVID-19. CDC updates frequently asked questions for Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control and Healthcare Professionals regularly based on feedback from professionals on the ground.

The Vaccination Toolkit for Long-term Care Facilities is available on CDC's website.

Importance of COVID-19 Vaccination for Residents of Long-term Care Facilities — This guidance has been updated to include long-term care consent information for COVID-19 vaccination. To learn more visit, Vaccinating Long-Term Care Facility Residents.

CDC Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program

As you know, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program partners with **CVS and Walgreens pharmacies** to provide on-site no-cost COVID-19 vaccinations.

For more information, please see the Pharmacy Partnership for Long-Term Care Program for COVID-19 Vaccination FAQs. If a facility would like to email CVS or Walgreens directly, please see below:

- **CVS Email:** CovidVaccineClinicsLTCF@CVSHealth.com
- **Walgreens Email:** immunizeltc@walgreens.com

👥 Upcoming Telebriefings

Telebriefing for the **Long-Term Care and Residential Care Facilities Sector**

WHEN: Telebriefings will be held the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month from 2:00 – 3:00 PM.

Thursday,

| Zoom Meeting Link | Submit Telebriefing Questions |

April 22 **at 2:00 PM**	Visit the **Long-Term Care and Residential Care Facilities** sector webpage

Friday, **May 21** **at 3:00 PM**	Telebriefing for the **Older Adult and Disability Sector** **WHEN:** Telebriefings will be held on the 3rd Friday of the month from 3:00 – 4:00 PM. Zoom Meeting Link	Submit Telebriefing Questions Visit the **Older Adult and Disability Sector** webpage.

Ongoing Programs, Services, and Resources

County of San Diego Coronavirus Disease 2019

For up-to-date local information on COVID-19 within the County of San Diego, visit

www.coronavirus-sd.com

COVID-19 Testing Information & Resources

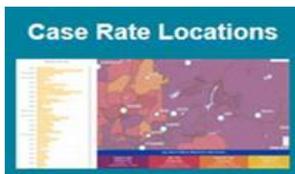For testing locations or to make an appointment at a drive-up location, visit the

Testing in San Diego County webpage.

CDC Infection Control Resources

CDC Guidance and Resources for Infection Control in Facilities

CLICK HERE

Case Rates by Zip Code

To view an interactive COVID-19 case rates by ZIP code map,

CLICK HERE

COVID-19 Watch Surveillance Report

County of San Diego COVID-19 Dashboard and Weekly Report

CLICK HERE

Triggers Dashboard: Testing Positivity Rate

The frequency of routine testing of skilled nursing facility staff depends on the San Diego County Positivity Rate.

2-1-1 San Diego

For general health questions about COVID-19, community resources, or if you are uninsured, dial **2-1-1**

2-1-1 San Diego

Live Well @ Home

Interested in free resources, tips, and strategies to stay healthy in both mind and body while staying at home?

CLICK HERE

Questions?

For questions related to long-term care and residential care facilities, please email:

COVID-LTC@sdcounty.ca.gov

Stay Connected

✉

For questions related to long-term care and residential care facilities, please email: COVID-LTC@sdcounty.ca.gov. Visit the Long-Term Care and Residential Care Facilities sector support webpage

Text **COSD COVID-19** to **468-311** to get text alert updates from the County of San Diego.

HHSA
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

LIVE WELL
SAN DIEGO