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MILITARY & VETERANS SECTOR UPDATE

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2021

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for this week's telebriefing for military, veterans, and their families!

<mark>**TELEBRIEFING SCHEDULE UPDATE:**</mark>
<mark>***Our telebriefings will now take place every second and fourth Thursday of the month.***</mark>

Make sure you join us <u>**Thursday, March 11th from 10 - 11 AM**</u> for another online forum and Q&A. **To submit your questions in advance, [click here](#).**

Special Thanks to our February 25th Telebriefing Guest:

Paula Jansen
CA District 1 Commander
Post 5867
Veterans of Foreign War

County Resources for Military & Veterans

Visit our **County site for Military/Veterans/Families and Serving Organizations**

General COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions – Click here

Military and Veterans-Specific Frequently Asked Questions – Click here

Benefit Information & Assistance and Other Professional Services for Military Veterans and Dependents – Click here

In Case You Missed It…

Veterans of Foreign War (VFW) is a non-profit veterans service organization comprised of eligible veterans and military service members from the active guard and reserve forces. VFW District 1 preserves and supports the patriotic and historical interests of our county, our community, and our veterans and active duty personnel. Their mission is to foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts; to serve our veterans, the military, and our communities; and to advocate on behalf of all veterans. VFW has many programs and services for veterans, service members, and their families, such as assistance with federal benefits, long-term care, and service-connected medical conditions. VFW Post 5867, located in Lakeside, CA, is open for outdoor dining Friday-Sunday, and provides to-go meals during the week. To learn more about the programs and services offered by VFW Post 5867, click here. To find a VFW post near you, click here.

Events and Announcements

Courage to Call is hosting another drive-thru food distribution event at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 27 at National University on 9388 Lightwave Ave, San Diego, 92123. Food is distributed on a first come, first serve basis. No RSVP Required, but please bring your Military/Veteran ID.

SDVC Monthly Meeting active duty military, veteran's and their families are invited to attend the San Diego Veteran's Coalition's next monthly meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, Mar. 5. For details, visit sdvetscoalition.org.

The Veterans Art Project is hosting a virtual pop-up community arts café in partnership with the Oceanside Museum of Art on Feb. 27 from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. This event will feature a veteran art exhibition, live music, guest speakers, and live workshops and is free to attend. Click here to register.

Wellness Wednesday is a virtual event hosted by Courage to Call to teach military members, veterans, and their families about wellness topics and helpful resources every Wednesday at 4:00 p.m. To participate in Wellness Wednesday, visit the Courage to Call Facebook page and join through Facebook Live.

North County Veterans Stand Down is a four-day event that enables homeless veterans to receive much-needed services in a safe, friendly, drug-free and secure environment. It will be held at Green Oak Ranch at 1237 Green Oak Road, Vista, CA 92081 from Thursday, April 14 through Sunday, April 18. For details, visit NCStandDown.org.

County Asks for Patience as COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Expands

As many as half a million additional people in San Diego County will become eligible on Saturday for the COVID-19 vaccine, but supplies remain limited, and it's expected to take weeks before all those included in the next eligibility tier could get vaccinated.

Those working in emergency services, education and childcare, as well as food and agriculture can begin receiving vaccinations starting Feb. 27. Each of those sectors includes a wide variety of occupations, and there are vaccination plans in place for certain subsets of those groups.

Those not covered by specific vaccination plans for their occupation should contact their primary care doctor or schedule an appointment here.

To read the full *County News Center* story, click here. To learn more about the phased approach for COVID-19 vaccines, click here. For more information about the COVID-19 vaccine, click here.

Monoclonal Antibody Treatment is Available!

Monoclonal antibodies are made in the lab to prevent the SARS CoV-2 virus from getting into your cells and making you sick with COVID-19. Patients with symptomatic

COVID-19 should talk to their primary care provider to see if they are medically eligible for this treatment. Patients *MUST* be referred for treatment by a medical provider.

You may be eligible to receive this treatment if you are:
- A person who is positive for COVID-19 with mild to moderate symptoms, *AND*
- Whose symptoms first appeared within the last 10 days, *AND*
- 12 years of age and older, *AND*
- At high-risk of getting very sick or being admitted to the hospital from COVID-19 based on strict medical criteria.

CA Notify: California's Exposure Notification System

CA Notify is a completely voluntary and secure tool to notify people if they've been exposed to someone with COVID-19.

Here's how it works:
- CA Notify uses Bluetooth technology to exchange random codes with the phones of others who have also opted in.
- You will receive an anonymous alert only if you were in close contact with another CA Notify user who tests positive for COVID-19.
- You can choose to send an anonymous alert to other CA Notify users if you test positive for COVID-19.
- Your privacy is protected. Your identity is not known and your location is not tracked.

How to opt in:
- iPhone users can enable Exposure Notifications directly from Settings:
    - Step 1: Open the Settings app
    - Step 2: Scroll to Exposure Notifications
    - Step 3: Turn on and select United States and California
- Android users can download CA Notify through the Google Play store and follow the prompts to activate.

To learn more about CA Notify, click here. For help activating your phone, call (888) 421-9457 or click here.

Free MTS and NCTD Rides to Vaccination Appointments

MTS and NCTD 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. Click here to view MTS's transit trip planner with vaccine sites to help residents get to their appointments. For more information, visit the MTS website.

County of San Diego 2021 Emergency Rental Assistance Program

The County of San Diego's Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) helps eligible households in qualifying areas who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program provides payment assistant for renters behind on rent and utilities.

You may be eligible to receive rental assistance if your:
- Household income is at or below 80% Area Median Income
- Household has experienced a financial hardship directly related to COVD-19
- Household is at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability
- Household does not receive any other forms of rental subsidy such as Section 8 or other rental assistance programs, rapid rehousing assistance, or rental assistance from non-profit agencies.

To apply for ERAP, click here. If you do not have internet access and need assistance in completing an application, please call (858) 694-4801.

COVID-19 Health Equity Pilot Projects

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) will administer $5M to ~16-30 community-based organizations (CBO) led by and serving communities facing inequities in COVID-19 impacts and infection. CBOs will use the funding for pilot projects to reduce underlying inequities in the social determinants of health that have contributed to disproportionate harm from the Coronavrius among certain communities. Applications are due by March 2 at 5:00 p.m. To apply for this grant through CDPH, click here.

Mental Health Resources

Courage To Call. Every day, current and former service members and their families deal with the complex maze of issues that accompanies military life. Often times the most difficult problem is not knowing where to turn when you need help. Courage to Call is a free, confidential, veteran-staffed, 24/7 helpline dedicated to assisting active duty military personnel, veterans, reservists, guard members, and their families, regardless of discharge status. For more information or to chat with a veteran, visit www.courage2call.org, or call 1-877-698-7838, or 2-1-1.

The County's Access and Crisis Line (ACL) is confidential, toll-free, and available 24/7. If you or someone you care about is experiencing a suicidal or mental health crisis, please call 1-888-724-7240.

VA Veteran Suicide Prevention and Crisis Line, 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1 to talk to someone, or Send a text message to 838255 to connect with a VA responder.

The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-8255, provides 24/7, free and confidential support for people in distress, and prevention and crisis resources for you or your loved ones.

More resources to help you manage mental health and cope during the COVID-19 pandemic can be found here.

Additional County of San Diego COVID-19 telebriefings are available throughout the week (via Zoom) for a variety of community sectors. For information, updates, and Q&A with other sectors, view the full telebriefing schedule here.

COVID-19 Resources

To request English or Spanish posters for your installation, please e-mail COVID-Military-Veterans@sdcounty.ca.gov with your contact information, drop-off location, and delivery instructions. A member of our Outreach & Education Team will contact you to coordinate delivery and obtain any additional details (if necessary).

Additional resources and materials are available here for your use.

If you work or reside at a skilled nursing or long-term care facility and have not yet been contacted to schedule your COVID-19 vaccine appointment, please send an e-mail to COVID-HealthcareStatus@sdcounty.ca.gov

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Continue to Stay Informed

County Coronavirus Website

Resources for Military, Veteran's & their Families

Resources & Materials

Testing Information