

MILITARY & VETERANS SECTOR UPDATE

CORONAVIRUS
DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19)

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 2021



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

TELEBRIEFING SCHEDULE UPDATE:

Our telebriefings will now take place every second and fourth Thursday of the month.

Make sure you join us Thursday, May 13th from 10 - 11 AM for another online forum and Q&A. To submit your questions in advance, [click here](#).

Special Thanks to our April 22nd Telebriefing Guests:



Lisa Marcolongo
Co-Champion
Family Life Action Group (FLAG)
San Diego Veterans Coalition (SDVC)



Marianne Delatorre
Co-Champion
Family Life Action Group (FLAG)
San Diego Veterans Coalition (SDVC)

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...



The San Diego Veterans Coalition (SDVC) is a non-profit organization in San Diego County with over 150 unique members and participating organizations, businesses, and agencies. The purpose of the SDVC is to serve the needs of San Diego regional veterans, their families, and

significant others. The purpose of the Family Life Action Group (FLAG) is to strengthen and build connections between communities in San Diego County and veteran families. The goals of FLAG are to: 1) Create awareness about community services/programs for active duty families during their transition from the military to civilian life; 2) Advocate for military and veteran spouse employment by focusing on licensing issues in California such as transferring military and veteran spouses' certifications to California when they move here; and 3) Bring attention to the untold stories of military caregivers and seek solutions for the challenges and long-term needs they face. To learn more about the SDVC and FLAG, [click here](#). Join the next FLAG Forum on Monday, May 10 from 9AM-10AM [here](#).

Events and Announcements

Courage to Call is hosting another drive-thru food distribution event at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 24 at 9445 Farnham St., 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, May 7. For details, visit sdvetscoalition.org.

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 on September 16-19, 2021. For details, visit NCStandDown.org.

COVID-19 Vaccine Now Open to Everyone 16 and Older

As of April 15, everyone 16 and older is now eligible to be vaccinated against COVID-19. Currently, only the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are available in the region.

"Every San Diegan who qualifies for the vaccine can now get vaccinated," said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County public health officer. "The vaccine is the best protection we have against COVID-19. Get your shot as soon as you can."

There is new guidance on gatherings, private and indoor live events, and performances. In the Orange Tier, which the County is currently in, outdoor activities of up to 50 people are now permitted. Indoor gatherings are strongly discouraged but are allowed with modifications if they do not exceed 25 people.

To read the full County News Center story, [click here](#). To make an COVID-19 vaccine appointment, [click here](#). To learn more about COVID-19 vaccination rates in San Diego County, [click here](#). To learn more about CDPH's "Beyond the Blueprint," [click here](#).

County Pauses Use of Johnson & Johnson Vaccine in San Diego

The County is following the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration and pausing the use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine after a rare type of blood clot was reported in six recently vaccinated women in the United States.

In San Diego County, about 58,000 San Diegans have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and no known severe adverse effects have been reported in the region. For San Diegans who got the vaccine more than a month ago, the risk to them is very low at this time. For San Diegans who recently got the vaccine-- within the last few weeks-- they should be aware of any symptoms.

"San Diegans should continue to get vaccinated with a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine, which are now being used at the clinics that offer the Johnson and Johnson vaccine," Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., County public health officer said.

To read the full County News Center story, [click here](#). To view the CDC's statement regarding the pause in the Johnson and Johnson vaccine administration, [click here](#).

COVID-19 Funeral Assistance

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought overwhelming grief to many families, and FEMA will provide financial assistance for COVID-19-related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020. FEMA will begin to implement COVID-19 funeral assistance in April. Additional guidance is being finalized and will be released to potential applicants and community partners as soon as possible. In the meantime, people who have COVID-19 funeral expenses are encouraged to keep and gather documentation. For more information on FEMA's COVID-19 Funeral Assistance, [click here](#).

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

Monoclonal antibody treatment is available for persons with mild or moderate COVID-19 whose symptoms developed within the last 10 days and are at high risk of getting very sick from COVID-19. It is recommended to receive the potentially lifesaving treatment within 72 hours of when COVID-19 symptoms begin. The Monoclonal Antibody Regional Centers (MARC) in Escondido and Chula Vista are open 7 days a week to treat all persons for free who are medically eligible, regardless of health insurance or immigration status. **If you think you qualify, please call (619) 685-2500 to schedule an appointment or with any questions. You are also encouraged to talk to your doctor** to see if you are medically eligible for this treatment and to receive a referral. For more information about monoclonal antibody treatments and MARC, [click here](#). If you have any questions or concerns, please e-mail COVIDtreatment@sdcounty.ca.gov.

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

San Diego County residents financially impacted by COVID-19 who need help paying their rent and utilities may qualify for assistance.

Applications for the County of San Diego's Emergency Rental Assistance program (ERAP) 2021 serves all areas of the San Diego region except for the cities of San Diego and Chula Vista. The application will be open until all available funding has been used.

The application is available in six different languages (English, Spanish, Arabic, Vietnamese, Tagalog, and Mandarin) on the website. If someone does not have internet or needs help, they can call 858-694-4801 and a county representative can assist with questions and/or take the application over the phone.

If you are a resident of the cities of San Diego and Chula Vista, or if you are not sure which program serves your area, [click here](#) for more information. For veteran-specific rental assistance, [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

Continue to Stay Informed



[County Coronavirus Website](#)



[Resources for Military, Veteran's & their Families](#)



[Resources & Materials](#)



[Testing Information](#)

