



To: CAHAN San Diego Participants
Date: January 21, 2021
From: Public Health Services

Health Advisory Update #23: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Updates

Key Messages

- COVID-19 phased vaccination plans in San Diego County are progressing according to guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) and the [California Department of Public Health](#) (CDPH).
- Healthcare providers should vaccinate all individuals in phase 1A (review detailed list below). Providers should reach out to those eligible under phase 1A and encourage vaccination. When supplies permit and there are no available individuals in phase 1A accepting the vaccine, providers may vaccinate persons 65 years of age and older.
- To ensure those in phase 1A are offered vaccinations, County sites and partner sites, including the Petco Park Super Station, will continue vaccinating in 1A while also beginning with those 75 and older on Jan 18.
- Vaccine providers should enter information into [San Diego Immunization Registry \(SDIR\)](#) within 24 hours (or electronic health record if there is an established connection into SDIR). Future allocations are based, in part, on the amount of documented vaccines administered.
- Providers should be aware of the [CDC Clinical Considerations page](#), which is updated routinely. Persons should not be scheduled to receive the second dose earlier than recommended.
- CDPH has [announced](#) that providers can immediately resume use of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine Lot 041L20A, which was previously paused in California after a reported cluster of apparently allergic reactions.
- Providers should promptly report vaccine-related adverse events to the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#) and concurrently report to the County Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch at IZINFO.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov or Fax: (619) 692-5677.
- Vaccine recipients should be strongly encouraged to enroll in [V-safe](#) for active monitoring.

Situation

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) and [California Department of Public Health](#) (CDPH) guidance provides a phased approach to COVID-19 immunization due to limited initial vaccine supply. Priorities for COVID-19 vaccination in San Diego County are consistent with these guidelines. Updates for those eligible for vaccination in the county may be found [here](#).
- **In San Diego County, persons categorized in all Tiers of Phase 1A (Tiers 1, 2, and 3) are currently eligible for vaccination.** The tiers of Phase 1A are:

Tier 1:

- Staff at acute care, psychiatric, and correctional facility hospitals. This includes persons in non-clinical and support roles such as housekeeping, facilities management, and other personnel at direct risk of exposure.
- Staff and residents of skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, and similar settings for older or medically vulnerable individuals
- Paramedics, emergency medical technicians, and others providing emergency medical services such as lifeguards
- Staff at dialysis centers

- Staff of residential substance use disorder (SUD) and behavioral health facilities
- Vaccinators
- **CDPH has clarified** that this tier includes hospice workers (inpatient); ancillary staff at long-term care centers such as those assisting with patient transport, consulting specialists, and dentists; and long-term care ombudsman staff.

Tier 2:

- Staff at intermediate care facilities for persons who need non-continuous nursing supervision and supportive care
- Staff of home health care and in-home support services
- Community health workers, including promotoras
- Public health field staff
- Staff at primary care clinics, including federally qualified health centers, rural health centers, correctional facility clinics, and urgent care clinics
- Staff of outpatient SUD treatment and behavioral health facilities
- **CDPH has clarified** that this tier includes hospice workers (outpatient); reproductive health clinic staff; adult day/health program staff; disability support workers; out-of-hospital midwives; ambulatory surgical center staff; formal caregivers for elderly and people with disabilities, including private duty caregivers for the elderly in their homes; and staff providing non-emergency medical transportation.

Tier 3:

- Staff at specialty clinics
 - Laboratory workers in a CLIA-licensed laboratory or conducting research with SARS-CoV-2
 - Staff at dental and other oral health clinics
 - Pharmacy and other healthcare staff not working in settings at higher tiers
 - **CDPH has clarified** that this tier includes alternative medical practitioners; funeral homes staff; and blood bank staff.
- Under the direction of the California Governor, CDPH has announced [plans to prioritize persons aged 65 years and older](#) (Phase 1B Tier 1). Vaccination for this group is permitted for providers who have capacity and currently County-sponsored sites are vaccinating those 75 and older, with transition to 65 and over in the coming week.
 - **Phase 1B** also includes frontline essential workers (e.g., food and agricultural workers, firefighters, police officers, and childcare/education workers).
 - **Phase 1C** includes all other essential workers (e.g., workers in transportation and logistics), and all persons aged 50-64 and 16-49 years with medical conditions that increase risk for severe COVID-19. Click [here](#) for more details and supporting evidence for these recommendations.
 - A higher-than-usual number of apparent allergic reactions were reported with a specific lot of Moderna vaccine (041L20A) administered at the Petco Park vaccination clinic. Seven individuals who received vaccination from this lot required medical attention over the span of 24 hours. Follow up investigation of outcomes of these individuals was conducted and the manufacturer, CDC, U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), CDPH, and the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup reviewed the adverse events and related medical information. No specific cause of the event cluster was identified, however, the appropriate management and recovery of all individuals was noted, as well as the absence of other adverse event clusters where the lot was used. As per [CDPH](#), providers may resume use of the lot immediately. These actions reinforce that rigorous, science-based systems have been put in place to ensure vaccine safety. The Western States Scientific Review Workgroup [summary of findings](#) provides more detail.

Actions Requested

1. Providers administering vaccines should:

- Continue to actively reach out to patients who may fall into Phase 1A and immunizing individuals in Phase 1A and, when capacity allows,

- Begin vaccinating those [65 years and older](#) (Phase 1B Tier 1).
2. Providers have the option for reimbursement for vaccine administration to uninsured recipients. More information available [here](#).
 3. Providers administering vaccines should enter complete patient information within 24 hours, including current address and zip code, race/ethnicity, and vaccine administration information into the [San Diego Immunization Registry \(SDIR\)](#) or Electronic Health Record if there is an established feed into SDIR.
 - Completeness and accuracy of address and race/ethnicity information entered into SDIR is needed to monitor how vaccine is being administered across groups, including amongst those living in lowest quartile [Health Equity neighborhoods](#).
 4. Stay up to date on CDC's [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States](#) (last updated 01/06/2021).
 - CDC states that there is no maximum interval between the first and second doses for either vaccine and there is no need to restart the vaccine series if a second doses is inadvertently administered >3 weeks after the first Pfizer-BioNTech dose or >4 weeks after the first Moderna dose. However, FDA [recently reiterated](#) that healthcare providers should follow the authorized dosing schedule for each COVID-19 vaccine in order to receive the level of protection observed in the large randomized controlled trials supporting their effectiveness.
 5. Vaccine providers should:
 - Promptly report vaccine-related adverse events to the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#), ideally within 24 hours of the identification of the event;
 - Concurrently report vaccine-related adverse events to the County Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch at IZINFO.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov or Fax: (619) 692-5677; and
 - Strongly encourage **vaccine recipients** to enroll in [V-safe](#) for active monitoring.
 6. Providers may resume administration of Moderna COVID-19 vaccine from lot 041L20A.
 7. All COVID-19 vaccines should be administered following the established [guidelines](#) with monitoring and preparedness for possible allergic reactions.
 - Observe persons for 30 minutes when they have a history of an allergic reaction of any severity to a vaccine or injectable therapy and persons with a history of a severe allergic reaction due to **any** cause.
 - More information may found be on the [CDC Prevaccination Checklist for COVID-19 Vaccines](#).
 8. Providers who care for individuals with severe reactions to COVID-19 vaccine should obtain tryptase (mast cell marker) and/or SC5b-9 (terminal complement complex) tests to assist with characterizing the reaction.
 - The ideal time window to collect blood for these two tests is between 30 minutes and 90 minutes after the reaction began. However, these blood tests might remain elevated up to 6 hours after the reaction began.
 - The test results may be useful in decision making about future vaccine doses for the individual and in investigations of adverse vaccine events over time.
 - More information on how to collect the specimens may be found [here](#).

Thank you for your continued participation.

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