



**To:** CAHAN San Diego Participants  
**Date:** March 16, 2021  
**From:** Public Health Services

### **Health Advisory Update #28: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Update**

This health advisory updates providers about the newly authorized Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, new guidance on COVID prevention, and additional groups eligible for vaccination.

#### **Key Messages**

- The Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine has received an [Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\)](#) and [interim recommendations](#) for use in the United States have been made.
- Providers should monitor the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) [Clinical Considerations](#) webpage for frequently updated guidance on COVID-19 vaccination.
- The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has authorized as eligible for vaccination individuals age 16-64 at the highest risk for morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 as a direct result of severe health conditions.
- CDPH provided updates and additional clarifications to groups eligible for vaccination.

#### **Situation**

- **Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 Vaccine**
  - On February 27, 2021, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued an [Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\) for the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine](#). For additional information see the [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers](#).
  - The Janssen COVID-19 vaccine is a recombinant, replication-incompetent adenovirus serotype 26 (Ad26) vector vaccine requiring only a single dose and can be stored 36°F to 46°F (2°C to 8°C).
  - The vaccine was 72% effective overall and 86% effective in preventing severe disease among trial participants in the United States and there were no COVID hospitalizations or deaths in the vaccine arm.
  - The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) issued [interim recommendations](#) for this vaccine in persons aged **≥18** years for the prevention of COVID-19.
- **Vaccination Guidance**
  - CDC continues to update [Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States](#).
    - Persons with a contraindication (i.e., anaphylaxis) to the second dose of a mRNA COVID-19 vaccine have a precaution for the Janssen vaccine because of potential cross-reactive hypersensitivity between ingredients. In this situation, the following actions could be considered:
      - Administering Janssen vaccine after the first dose of an mRNA vaccine to become fully vaccinated.
      - Consultation with an allergist-immunologist or CDC's [Clinical Immunization Safety Assessment \(CISA\) COVIDvax](#) project should be considered.

- Vaccination of these individuals should only be undertaken in an [appropriate setting](#) under the supervision of a healthcare provider experienced in the management of severe allergic reactions.

- **Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People**

- CDC released the new [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#) and an accompanying [Science Brief](#) which apply to fully vaccinated people in **non-healthcare settings**.
  - People are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19  $\geq 2$  weeks after receiving the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer or Moderna), or  $\geq 2$  weeks after receiving a single-dose vaccine (Janssen).
  - Fully vaccinated people may visit indoors without wearing masks or physical distancing with,
    - Other fully vaccinated people.
    - Unvaccinated people from a single household who are at low risk for severe COVID-19.
  - Fully vaccinated people should continue to take precautions in public like wearing a well-fitted mask, physical distancing, avoiding high risk situations and adhering to other prevention measures.
  - Fully vaccinated people who are not [residents or employees of non-healthcare congregate settings](#) (e.g., correctional and detention facilities, group homes) or [employees of other high-density workplaces](#) (e.g., meat and poultry processing and manufacturing plants):
    - Do not need to quarantine or be tested following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19;
    - Should [monitor for symptoms](#) for 14 days following an exposure; and
    - Isolate themselves and be evaluated for COVID-19, if symptoms develop.

- **Vaccine Allocation Updates**

- Medical and behavioral healthcare providers may use their clinical judgement to vaccinate individuals aged 16-64 who:
  - [Are at the highest risk](#) from COVID-19 because they have severe health conditions:
    - Cancer, current with debilitated or immunocompromised state.
    - Chronic kidney disease, stage 4 or above.
    - Chronic pulmonary disease, oxygen dependent.
    - Down syndrome.
    - Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant.
    - Pregnancy.
    - Sickle cell disease.
    - Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies (excludes hypertension).
    - Severe obesity (Body Mass Index  $\geq 40$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>).
    - Type 2 diabetes mellitus with hemoglobin A1c level greater than 7.5%.
  - Might be at increased risk as per the CDC, who are also [eligible for vaccination in San Diego County](#):
    - Asthma (moderate-to-severe).
    - Cerebrovascular disease (affects blood vessels and blood supply to the brain).
    - Cystic fibrosis.
    - Hypertension or high blood pressure.
    - Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from blood or bone marrow transplant, immune deficiencies, HIV, use of corticosteroids, or use of other immune weakening medicines.
    - Neurologic conditions, such as dementia.
    - Liver disease.
    - Overweight (BMI  $> 25$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>, but  $< 30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>).
    - Obese (BMI  $> 30$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>, but  $< 40$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>).
    - Pulmonary fibrosis (having damaged or scarred lung tissues).

- Thalassemia (a type of blood disorder).
- Type 1 diabetes mellitus.
- Have a developmental or other high-risk disability for which one or more of the following applies:
  - The individual is likely to develop severe life-threatening illness, or death, from COVID-19 infection; or
  - Acquiring COVID-19 will limit the individual's ability to receive ongoing care or services vital to their well-being and survival; or
  - Providing adequate and timely COVID care will be particularly challenging due to the individual's disability.
- Any currently authorized COVID-19 vaccine can be administered to people with underlying medical conditions who have no [contraindications](#) to vaccination. CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) has not stated a product preference.
  - Note that only Pfizer is indicated for persons including 16 and 17 years of age.
- Individuals who reside or work in a high risk congregate residential setting, such as an incarceration/detention facility, homeless shelter, or behavioral health facility are now eligible. This includes people experiencing homelessness, who may transition into congregate settings at short notice.
- Public transit workers, including airport and commercial airline workers (not private airplanes), are now eligible.
- [Additional updates and clarifications by CDPH](#) made the following groups eligible for vaccination:
  - Informal **childcare workers, foster care**, and those working in **children's residential community care facilities**, and **library staff** are part of education and childcare.
  - **Utility workers, disaster service workers, and social workers** are part of emergency response.
  - **Massage therapists** are alternative medical practitioners.
  - All **janitors**, because the vast majority support health care and other eligible sectors.
  - **Couriers** for vaccines and emergency supplies play a critical role in the public health response.

## Actions Requested

1. Become familiar with the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine including storage, dosing, and administration.
2. Vaccinate individuals aged 16-64 [at the highest risk](#) for COVID-19 complications due to health conditions as well as those who might be at elevated risk.
3. Monitor the list of eligibilities on the County's [COVID-19 Vaccine Phases](#) webpage as it is subject to change.
4. Verify age prior to giving vaccinations. Only the Pfizer vaccine is currently authorized for persons 16-17 years.
5. Remain up to date on CDC's [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States](#) including the [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#).
6. Refer to the County's [COVID-19 Vaccination Sites & Appointments page](#) for additional information on eligibility, documentation, and scheduling vaccination.
7. Report vaccine-related adverse events and vaccine administration errors to the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#), and to the County Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch at [IZINFO.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:IZINFO.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov) or Fax: (619) 692-5677.
8. Strongly encourage vaccine recipients to enroll in [V-safe](#) for active monitoring.
9. Remain up to date on CDC's [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#).

Thank you for your participation.

## CAHAN San Diego

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