



To: CAHAN San Diego Participants
Date: April 12, 2021
From: Public Health Services

Health Advisory Update #29: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Update

This health advisory updates providers on additional quarantine and isolation recommendations and new groups eligible for vaccination.

Key Messages

- Fully vaccinated people with no COVID-like symptoms do not need quarantine or testing (with some exceptions) 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.

Situation

- **Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People**
 - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) most recent update of [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#) and an accompanying [Science Brief](#) includes important changes in recommendations on quarantine and testing for the fully vaccinated. [Post Vaccine Considerations for Healthcare Personnel](#) has also been updated.
 - People are considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19 ≥ 2 weeks after receiving the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer or Moderna), or ≥ 2 weeks after receiving a single-dose vaccine (Janssen).
 - Following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, fully vaccinated people with no COVID-like symptoms **do not need to be quarantined or tested** following exposure to a suspected or confirmed COVID-19 case (with some exceptions listed below).
 - Fully vaccinated people who do not quarantine should still monitor for [symptoms of COVID-19](#) for 14 days following an exposure.
 - Any fully vaccinated person who experiences [symptoms consistent with COVID-19](#) should isolate themselves, be clinically evaluated for COVID-19 and/or other etiologies, and tested for SARS-CoV-2 if indicated. The symptomatic, fully vaccinated person should inform their healthcare provider of their vaccination status at the time of presentation to care.

- Whole genome sequencing (WGS) should be included when viral testing is ordered on fully vaccinated persons. Other situations to consider and instructions to request WGS are available in [Update #27: Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Variants](#).
- CDC has updated [recommendations for travel](#).
 - Fully vaccinated people do not need to get tested before or after domestic travel or self-quarantine unless their destination requires it.
 - 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.
 - The [Quarantine Order](#) for San Diego County has been updated to reflect the above changes.
- Exceptions to the above guidance on quarantine and testing:
 - [Work restrictions for fully vaccinated healthcare providers](#) (HCP) who have underlying immunocompromising conditions (e.g., organ transplantation, cancer treatment) should still be considered.
 - Fully vaccinated individuals that are [inpatients or residents in healthcare settings](#) (e.g., long term care facilities) or residents of non-healthcare congregate settings (e.g., correctional and detention facilities, group homes) should continue to quarantine for 14 days and be tested for SARS-CoV-2 following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.
 - Fully vaccinated [employees of non-healthcare congregate settings and other high-density workplaces](#) (e.g., meat and poultry processing and manufacturing plants) with no COVID-like symptoms do not need to quarantine following an exposure; however, testing following an exposure and through routine workplace screening programs (if present) is still recommended.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated the [Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Disposition of Patients with SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Healthcare Settings](#) guidance and the accompanying [Decision Memo](#).
 - [CDC's test-based strategy](#) should be considered to determine when to discontinue isolation and precautions for persons who are [severely immunocompromised](#) (e.g., persons receiving chemotherapy for cancer), regardless of the presence of COVID-19 symptoms.
 - CDC defines [severe immunocompromise](#) as certain conditions, such as being on chemotherapy for cancer, untreated HIV infection with CD4 T lymphocyte count <200, combined primary immunodeficiency disorder, and receipt of prednisone >20mg/day for more than 14 days, that may cause a higher degree of immunocompromise.
 - This strategy requires at least two consecutive respiratory specimens collected ≥24 hours apart to determine when to stop isolation.
 - The [CDC's test-based strategy](#) may extend isolation past 20 days.
- **Vaccine Allocation Updates**
 - The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has authorized as eligible for vaccination all individuals age 50 to 64 years of age.
 - On April 15, individuals age 16 to 49 years of age will also become eligible for vaccination.
 - Only the Pfizer vaccine is currently authorized for persons 16-17 years.
 - Current details of those eligible for vaccinations in San Diego County can be found [here](#).
- **CDC Vaccine Administration Resources**
 - The [COVID-19 Vaccine Quick Reference Guide for Healthcare Professionals](#) is a quick reference for comparing general information, storage and handling information, and vaccine administration [information for all COVID-19 vaccines](#). These [Interim Clinical Considerations](#) and new reference materials are ready for use:
 - The [Interim Clinical Consideration Summary](#) provides an easy reference of clinical considerations.
 - The [Vaccine Administration Errors and Deviations](#) table is an easy reference for information on handling vaccine administration errors.

Actions Requested

1. Remain up to date on CDC's [Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#) and the guidance on [Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Disposition of Patients with SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Healthcare Settings](#).
2. Providers are requested to submit specimens for WGS from fully vaccinated individuals suspected to have SARS-CoV-2 virus infection.
 - Providers can contact the County Epidemiology Unit for assistance in both evaluation and specimen submission during business hours Monday through Friday by calling 619-692-8499. San Diego providers should not directly contact CDPH to request WGS and requests should not be made after hours.
 - Providers should report any receipt of sequence data identifying a variant of concern to the County Epidemiology Unit within one working day using a [Confidential Morbidity Report](#) faxed to 858-715-6458 or sent by secure email to epi-cdreporting.hhsa@sdcounty.ca.gov.
3. Vaccinated individuals aged 50-64 for COVID 19 and all others [eligible](#) in San Diego County.
4. Beginning April 15, also vaccinated individuals aged 16-49 for COVID 19, using only Pfizer for persons 16-17 years.
5. 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 or Fax: (619) 692-5677.
6. Strongly encourage vaccine recipients to enroll in [V-safe](#) for active monitoring.

Thank you for your participation.

CAHAN San Diego

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