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](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccineshcp/vis/importance/vaccinated-persons.html) **and the guidance on** [Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions and Disposition of Patients with SARS-CoV-2 Infection in Healthcare Settings](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/discontinuation-transmission-based-precautions.html).

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](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/Epi/CDPH_Epidemiology/CDCPR/ConfidentialMorbidityReport16.pdf) 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)](https://vaers.hhs.gov/), **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**

County of San Diego Health & Human Services Agency
Epidemiology and Immunization Services Branch
Phone: (619) 692-8499; Fax: (858) 715-6458
Urgent Phone for pm/weekends/holidays: (858) 565-5255
E-mail: cahan@sdcounty.ca.gov
Public Website: [http://www.cahansandiego.com](http://www.cahansandiego.com)