



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Care Services



GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

## DHCS BH All Provider Call Brief Summary – 1/13/21

### DSS Updates (Ley Arquisola)

- New: Residential Alternate Care Sites
  - Eligibility:
    - Must be COVID-19 positive
    - Must be at a residential level of care but not needing 24-hour nursing
    - Currently in a residential setting needing more than the facility can provide  
If meets criteria, individuals not currently residing in residential setting may qualify to be transferred from hospital or skilled nursing facility.
  - Available for individuals with mental health disorders and SUD, on a facility by facility basis and based on capacity and staffing
  - 6 sites with 114 beds (Indio, Murrieta, Norwalk, Sacramento, Stockton, and Modesto)
  - Must contact regional office for information on these sites
  - Access Provider Information Notifications [here](#)
  - Information on Residential Alternate Care Sites: [PIN 21-01](#)
  - For more information:
    - [Community Care Licensing](#)
    - [Community Care Licensing: Adult and Senior Care Regional Offices](#)

### CDPH Updates (Dr. Erin Epton, Miren Klein)

- Vaccine Updates
  - Federal government is releasing all vaccine doses (instead of withholding half for second doses) and issued new guidance on vaccine priorities (expanding Phase 1b to include people 65 and over); CDPH will be issuing revised guidance soon, including on when congregant care clients are prioritized, and what counts as an underlying condition (see 1/13/21 press release at the end of the document)

- All providers should work with local health departments to get staff vaccinated.
  - All health departments are working quickly to get providers vaccinated and have been informed to prioritize BH and medical providers in same tier
  - Many counties setting up large vaccination clinics
  - Trouble reaching health department? Reach out to county BH director.
- History of COVID illness or positive test? Still should get vaccine. (If vaccine in short supply, should wait 90 days to allow others to get vaccine first, since re-infection is rare within 90 days).
- Antibody testing prior to vaccination is not required, as it would prevent rapid deployment of vaccine
- Informational Call Regarding COVID-19 Vaccines Steps For Success for Adult and Senior Care Licensees 1/12/2021 1:15 PM – 2:55 PM
- BH facilities with infrastructure to administer their own vaccines:
  - Register at CDPH website (see [link](#) for more information)
  - Coordinate with local public health department
  - Requirements
    - Training
    - Cold storage and monitoring
    - Enrollment in immunization registry (to report within 24 -72 hours)
    - Daily reporting of vaccine supply
    - Minimum order: 100 vaccines, so not ideal for small facilities
- Other CDPH updates:
  - Average testing turnaround time is now 1.4 days
  - New COVID strain is more contagious but not more deadly
  - Reminder: staff can get to work within 7 days (with negative test) after significant exposure. See 12/14/20 [executive order](#) and [quarantine guidance from CDPH](#) allowing a faster return to work for staff exposed to COVID-19. (Note: chat question about Cal/OSHA guidelines: will investigate and update on next call)

### **DHCS Licensing and Certification (Janelle Ito-Orille)**

- Continuing to work with providers on a case-by-case basis to provide flexibilities, including expedited licensure and renewals and ability to expand capacity to meet surge needs
- Questions: [LCDQuestions@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:LCDQuestions@dhcs.ca.gov) or [MHLC@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:MHLC@dhcs.ca.gov)

**Medical Health Operational Area Coordinator (MHOAC) update** (Stephanie Welch and Brijesh Varma)

- MHOAC serves as the emergency system for the vast majority of resource acquisitions, other than vaccines (which are federally dispensed)
- CA is a decentralized system, organized at local, regional and state levels
- Link for local MHOAC contact information [Link](#) -- 24/7 system work to maintain a directory of health resources
- Recommend work with local MHOAC to problem-solve needs. Local MHOACs are quickly learning importance of working with behavioral health providers.
- Staffing resources are largely focused on life-or-death situations (such as staffing ICUs), but let the MHOAC know what you need to enable local problem-solving.

To get on mailing list for updates, email [LCDQuestions@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:LCDQuestions@dhcs.ca.gov)

**CDPH PRESS RELEASE** January 13, 2021 PH21-015

**CONTACT:** [CDPHpress@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:CDPHpress@cdph.ca.gov)

## **Seniors 65+ Now Eligible to Receive COVID-19 Vaccine to Effectively and Efficiently Increase Vaccine Distribution, Reduce Hospitalizations and Save Lives**

*New Tool to Notify People of Vaccine Eligibility to Launch Next Week*

SACRAMENTO – In order to increase the pace of COVID-19 vaccine distribution to those at greatest risk, the state is prioritizing individuals 65 and older to receive the vaccine as demand subsides among health care workers.

“There is no higher priority than efficiently and equitably distributing these vaccines as quickly as possible to those who face the gravest consequences,” said Governor Gavin Newsom. “Individuals 65 and older are now the next group eligible to start receiving vaccines. To those not yet eligible for vaccines, your turn is coming. We are doing everything we can to bring more vaccine into the state.”

Those in Phase 1A – health care workers and long-term care residents – remain the highest priority to receive vaccines. Demand for the vaccines continues to far exceed supply.

“With our hospitals crowded and ICUs full, we need to focus on vaccinating Californians who are at highest risk of becoming hospitalized to alleviate stress on our health care facilities,” said Dr. Tomás Aragón, Director of the California Department of Public Health and State Public Health Officer. “Prioritizing individuals age 65 and older will reduce hospitalizations and save lives.”

Following a bipartisan letter from nine governors including Governor Newsom on January 8, the CDC announced changes yesterday to its vaccine plan including making more of the coronavirus vaccine supply available to all states. Along with the increase in vaccine supply, the federal government encouraged states to expand the pool of those eligible to receive the vaccine to individuals 65 and older.

The Governor also announced a new system to let people know if they are eligible to receive a vaccine, and if not yet eligible, to register for a notification via email or text when they are eligible. That system is expected to launch next week. A second phase of that system will help counties, cities and others run mass vaccination events. This will include a way for eligible members of the public to schedule their vaccination appointments at those events. Community vaccination events are only one way for

eligible Californians to receive their vaccines. When available, the public can also go to their doctor or pharmacy to receive the vaccine.

Governor Newsom has aggressively led the state to increase the pace of vaccine administration. He laid out the goal of 1 million additional vaccines administered by the end of this week. At the direction of the Governor, the state has tackled the problem with a multi-pronged approach, including:

1. Increasing the number of people who can provide vaccinations by more than 100,000 health care professionals
  - a. Last Monday, added 36,000 dentists to the pool of health care providers who can administer the COVID-19 vaccines. The state has already received anecdotal reports of dentists actively administering vaccines after completing the required COVID-19 training.
  - b. This expansion comes on the heels a similar waiver in late December allowing pharmacy technicians overseen by licensed pharmacists to administer COVID-19 vaccines. There are 69,000 pharmacy technicians in California.
2. Directing Resources, Driving Commitment
  - a. The Governor's office has convened meetings with leaders across the public and private health care system and received commitments to cooperatively accelerate the pace of vaccine administration.

For more information on the state's efforts to distribute a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine in a fair way to everyone who wants it, visit the [Vaccinate All 58](#) webpage.