



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



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

DHCS BH All Provider Call

Brief Summary – 04/07/21

[Link](#) to weekly meeting notes and meeting link on DHCS webpage

To get on the mailing list for updates, email DHCSBHLicenCert@dhcs.ca.gov.

The link for the updated meeting occurrence is above and [here](#).

DSS Updates (Vicki Smith)

- [PIN 21-17-ASC](#)
 1. Updated Statewide Waiver Related To Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) And Visitation; Communal Dining; Group Activities; Non-Essential Services; Outings; And New Admissions
- We will be having a stakeholder meeting soon to share out with all our licensed facilities as we resume normal activities; updates to come.

CDPH Updates (Dr. Jane Siegel, Miren Klein)

- Vaccine Updates
 1. [Vaccine Dashboard](#)
 - 20 million doses have been administered
 - 7.5 million people are fully vaccinated
 - Over 4 million doses administered to hardest hit communities
 - Additional data can be found on the vaccine dashboard link provided above.
 2. Eligibility has expanded
 - As of April 1st 50 and older are eligible
 - Starting April 15th in California everyone 16 and older are eligible
 - Federally starting on April 19th everyone is eligible
 3. Weekly allocation for this week is one million first doses, but supplies are still limited.
 4. New “Let’s get to immunity” campaign
 - Goal to reassure the public that the vaccines are effective and greatest tool to stop the virus.

- Includes digital advertisements, social media advertisements, outreach in multiple languages, and a influencer campaign on TikTok and YouTube.
- 5. [Blue Shield/Third Party Administrator](#) (TPA)
 - By mid-April all provider and local health departments will have transitioned to Blue Shield.
 - 80% of weekly vaccine allocation is distributed based on population (across all counties) 20% is based on equity.
 - Quartile 1 based on equity received 40% allocation
 - TPA is partnering with local health jurisdictions for input on providers to distribute
 - Goal by mid-April all of the clinics throughout the state will be scheduling through My Turn.
- 6. [Federal pharmacy retail program](#)
 - Expanded to long term care pharmacies
 - Weekly allocation over 900,000 doses
 - Includes: CVS, Walgreens, Rite Aid, Walmart, Costco, Kroger, and Albertsons'
- 7. Now allocating doses to FQHCs and to dialysis centers.
- Other CDPH updates (Dr. Siegel)
 1. This week there were only two counties in the purple tier and two in the yellow.
 2. Governor Newsom is planning for June 15 to eliminate the tiers and open things up.
 3. Important to not let guard down completely, still wear masks and social distance.
 4. [AFL 21-08.2](#)
 - Quarantine is no longer required for residents admitted to a post-acute care facility if they are fully vaccinated and have not had prolonged close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection in the prior 14 days; local health departments may continue to recommend quarantine for newly admitted residents from a hospital where there is known SARS-CoV-2 transmission. Fully vaccinated SNF residents who leave the facility for non-essential purposes (e.g., to go out to a restaurant or visit family in their home) do not need to quarantine upon return.

DHCS Update (Dr. Kelly Pfeifer)

- We have received a 70 million dollar grant directed to crisis counseling
 1. Visit [CalHope](#) to learn more

- At the next [BH Stakeholders Advisory Committee](#), we will be addressing the rise in overdose deaths during the pandemic.
- Brief review of Medi-Cal transportation benefit for behavioral health clients; draft behavioral health information notice will be released Friday for input. It is based on guidance to Medi-Cal managed care plans released in [All Plan Letter 17-010](#) and in the [All Plan Letter FAQs](#).

Agency Update (Stephanie Welch)

- Because of the doses available and California's ability to reduce the spread and keep the hospitals open, we hope to fully open California by mid-June.
- This does not mean people will take off their masks and return back to crowded cubicles.
- The American Rescue and Recovery Plan has provide a lot of resources for our state, we are working to figure out how to best support Californians using these resources.

NOTE: The following information regarding free test supplies was obtained after the call:

Providers may order free BINAX COVID testing supplies, to allow rapid surveillance testing for staff and clients, or allow testing on admission to congregate care settings. See the [COVID 19 antigen testing website](#), the [playbook](#), and the [flyer](#) describing the program. To obtain supplies, [fill out this application](#).

The State provides the BinaxNow Antigen Tests, CLIA License, and the Ordering physician.

- Asymptomatic people: (new admission or healthcare workers), test at minimum 2 times per week.
- Symptomatic people: test to diagnose

Which tests should be confirmed by PCR?

- All positive antigen tests
- Symptomatic negative antigen tests

How does a facility arrange PCR testing?

- Facilities should set up a relationship with laboratory for confirmatory testing (Valencia Branch Laboratory does free testing – see [playbook](#) for details)

Instructions for how to conduct testing can be found [here](#) and at [Guidance for Congregate Living Facilities Performing Waived Antigen Testing \(ca.gov\)](#).

PCR Confirmatory Testing:

- After completing the application, CDPH will use the information provided to estimate number of test kits and ship-back boxes and automatically ship one

week's worth of testing kits (plus an additional 10% buffer). More information can be found at [COVID-19 Testing Task Force](#).

- Collection sites are responsible for arranging shipping for samples to the CDPH Valencia Branch Laboratory more information can be found [COVID-19 Testing Task Force](#).

Contact Information:

- For questions on the application process to partner with the State of California for COVID testing, please reach out to the [State of California Testing Taskforce](#).
- For more information setting up and operating your testing site, more information on the State IT platform (Color) or setting up and operating your testing site e.g., please visit the [Color site setup page](#).
- For invoicing or any invoicing-related questions, please reach out to the [State of California Medical Billing Department](#).
- For everything else, please complete the support form located at the bottom of the [Color site support page](#).

Questions and Answers

Q: Any updates on vaccines for teens and children?

A: No specific updates from the CDC yet.

Q: Can you clarify restrictions for fully vaccinated staff that travels, do we anticipate any vaccine requirements for staff or consumers?

A: CDC posted updated [guidance](#) for fully vaccinated who are traveling within the US there is no testing before or after or self-quarantine required as long as the individual remains asymptomatic. Under all circumstances it is recommended to wear a mask and avoid crowds. For international travel, travelers must have a negative COVID test.

Q: Can you confirm guidelines for vaccinated individuals inside work offices? Are masks still required?

A: Yes, masks are still required.

Q: What triggers the 7-day self-quarantine for an individual who is not fully vaccinated and travelling within the US?

A: Those who are not fully vaccinated are expected to get tested and quarantine for 7 days after travel.

Q: Can an employer legally require vaccinations for staff?

A: It is legally acceptable to require a vaccine; it is up to the employer. The Department of Fair Employment and Housing issued [guidance](#) on vaccines that is helpful for employers.

Q: Should surveillance testing at a SUD facility continue for vaccinated persons?

A: For SNF yes this should continue because we know there will be some testing breakthroughs that will appear asymptomatic. The goal is to be thoughtful about how we manage the testing, not to stop it. For SUD residential facilities there is no standard recommendation; reach out to your local health department for guidance.

Q: For the state wide waiver for TB, what is the approach for SUD residential facilities and is it needed?

A: We are not requesting any kind of waiver, but the testing has to be delayed. Visit [BHIN-21-009](#) to learn more.

Q: For Psychiatric Health Facilities (PHFs), our local public health department requires quarantine upon admission. If the patient has been vaccinated and has a negative test, would quarantine still be recommended?

A: Quarantine on admission is no longer recommended for SNFs if the client is vaccinated, as long as the individual has had no exposure to a COVID positive individual recently. SNF is the most restrictive facility type, so if it's not required for SNF it shouldn't be for PHF.

Q: Cal/OSHA issued temporary standards requiring quarantine after exposure and they have not issued an update regarding vaccinated individuals. Does the DPH guidance override the Cal/OSHA temporary standards?

A: CDPH will follow-up with an answer to this question.