



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



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

DHCS BH All Provider Call
Brief Summary – 2/24/21

[Link](#) to meeting notes and weekly meeting invite on DHCS webpage
To get on mailing list for updates, email LCDQuestions@dhcs.ca.gov

DSS Updates (Vickie Smith)

- No updates from community care licensing

CDPH Updates (Miren Klein)

- Vaccine Updates
 1. Almost 7.6 million doses administered; 1.5 million Californians have received both doses
 2. Delay in shipments due to severe storms.
 3. Reviewing the Johnson & Johnson vaccine with FDA this Friday (Feb. 26).
 4. Pharmacy retail partnership
 - a. CVS and Rite Aid given 1 million of Moderna vaccines
 - b. This week it was doubled with another million of Pfizer
 - c. CA now at 120,000 dose allocations so Walgreens has been added and CVS has expanded locations
 - d. COVID-19 vaccination appointment sign up links for retail pharmacy partners Rite Aid, Walgreens and CVS are below:
 - i. CVS: <https://www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine> or 1(800)746-7287
 - ii. Rite Aid: <http://riteaid.com/california>
 - iii. Walgreens: <https://www.walgreens.com/schedulevaccine>
 5. Prioritization guidelines
 - a. Target right now is 65 and older and healthcare workers.
 - b. Beginning March 15 health care providers can use their clinic judgment to vaccinate those age 16-64 with disabilities or conditions putting them at high risk of COVID-related morbidity and mortality
 - c. Implementation group coming together to figure out how to operationalize the distribution of the vaccine to vulnerable populations.
 - d. March 1: begin to prioritize staff working in school and child care and allocate 10% of doses to this group.
 6. No updates on third-party partner Blue Shield; should have more information next week.

DHCS Licensing and Certification (Janelle Ito-Orille)

- TB Testing

1. DHCS heard your concerns regarding staff getting the test within 7 days of employment. On Feb. 19, DHCS released guidance on TB testing and the COVID vaccine.

[Information Notice 21-009](#)

In accordance with CDC guidance, DHCS is asking that if a staff person or client has received the COVID vaccine and it will delay the TB test, please provide documentation in their file. Questions regarding the Information Notice can be directed to:

LCDQuestions@dhcs.ca.gov or MHLC@dhcs.ca.gov

Agency Update (Stephanie Welch)

- No specific updates but looking into working with Kim McCoy-Wade in operationalizing the newest guidance targeting vulnerable populations.

California Hospital Association (Sheree Lowe)

- A COVID positive inpatient unit (12 bed) opening up in Stockton is seeking approvals but is not yet approved.
- Here is a list of current open facilities:
 - College Hospital Costa Mesa
 - Heritage Oaks – Sacramento
 - San Diego Acute Psychiatric Hospital
 - Ventura County Medical Center CSU

Questions and Answers

Q: Is there any conversation around prioritizing people who are HIV positive for vaccination?

A: No specific guidance yet; the implementation group will work on this but at this point it is not prioritized.

Q: What is the status of prioritizing African American and Latinx people for vaccination?

A: There is a strong focus on equity and we are working to ensure there is a focus on the hard-to-reach populations.

Q: What is the expected timeline for moving to teachers and food workers?

A: Prioritization of teachers will start statewide on March 1 and give 10% of vaccine allocation to this group. Certain counties are already doing clinics to work with farm workers through mobile clinics and community based organizations.

Q: Any update on the Johnson & Johnson vaccine?

A: We are looking forward to the FDA meeting this Friday, Feb. 26; we should expect to hear over the weekend if they will receive the emergency use authorization.

Q: Can this call begin to address capacity issues and overdose rates which are a by-product of the pandemic?

A: DHCS continues to prioritize new license applications for residential treatment programs. DHCS [BHIN 20-017](#) provides more information on the application process.

Q: Is there any similar TB and vaccine guidance for CCL licensed facilities where they just have to show their vaccine card to not delay placement?

A: CDSS is working on a Provider Information Notice (PIN); it will most likely mirror CDPH guidance.

Q: Any info about vaccinating residential BHS clients?

A: Prioritization of ages 16-64 will be based on provider discretion after March 15.

Q: Where is the first unit for COVID psych open?

A: While the Stockton facility is not the first facility, it is scheduled to open this week, but still has to secure approvals.

Q: Is there any new safety guidance related to post vaccination, i.e. what is required of staff to maintain safety even after receiving both vaccinations? OR- is it just continue the same CDC guidelines of masking & social distancing?

A: Post vaccination, you should follow the same safety precautions as you did prior to being vaccinated.