



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



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DHCS BH All Provider Call Brief Summary – 3/10/21

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

DSS Updates (Vicki Smith)

- Working on updating visitation PIN, with more flexibilities and including guidance on contact for fully vaccinated people.
- DSS Provider Information Call March 17 from 1:05pm-2:55pm -- COVID-19 Pandemic Updates & Addressing and Preventing Compassion Fatigue and Caregiver Burnout. You can view more information at [Pandemic Updates & Preventing Compassion Fatigue](#); a link to join the zoom meeting is embedded in the link.

CDPH Updates (Dr. Erin Epton, Miren Klein)

Note – this vaccination section is updated as of 3/11/21, and includes information that was not available at the time of the 3/10/21 meeting. Information in the [DHCS FAQ for BH Providers](#), [CDPH bulletin](#), and [CDPH Fact Sheet](#).

- **Prioritization of people with conditions and disabilities putting them at high risk of severe COVID-19 infection or death:**

People ages 16-64 can be eligible if they are deemed to be at the very highest risk to get very sick from COVID-19:

EITHER because they have one or more of the following severe health conditions:

- **Cancer**, current with weakened immune system
- **Chronic kidney disease**, stage 4 or above
- **Chronic pulmonary disease**, oxygen dependent
- **Down syndrome**
- **Solid organ transplant**, leading to a weakened immune system
- **Pregnancy**
- **Sickle cell disease**
- **Heart conditions**, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies (but not hypertension)
- **Severe obesity** (Body Mass Index ≥ 40 kg/m²)
- **Type 2 diabetes mellitus** with hemoglobin A1c level greater than 7.5%

OR if, as a result of a developmental or other significant, high-risk disability, one or more of the following criteria applies:

- A COVID-19 infection is likely to result in severe life-threatening illness or death; OR
- Acquiring COVID-19 will limit the individual's ability to receive ongoing care or services vital to their well-being and survival; OR
- Providing adequate and timely COVID-19 care will be particularly challenging as a result of the individual's disability.

These three criteria include people with a range of significant physical or behavioral disabilities. Examples include:

- (a) people with serious mental illness (SMI) or serious substance use disorder (SUD),
- (b) enrolled consumers of Regional Centers, Independent Living Centers, In Home Supportive Services, Community Based Adult Services/Adult Day Health Centers, Medi-Cal HIV/AIDS Waiver, Medi-Cal Home and Community-Based Alternatives Waiver, Medi-Cal Assisted Living Waiver, Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly, California Children's Services Program (if the child is 16-21 years old), and California Genetically Handicapped Persons Program.

- ***To protect confidentiality, verification documentation of the diagnosis or type of disability is not required but instead anyone meeting the eligibility requirements will be asked to sign a self-attestation that they meet the criteria for high-risk medical conditions or disabilities.***
- Information on vaccines and also a dashboard on vaccinations can be found [here](#).

Additional Information covered in the 3/10/21 meeting from CDPH:

- Vaccine Updates
 1. California has administered 10.6 million doses and 3.4 million people have received both doses.
 2. Providers will receive their first allotment of Johnson and Johnson this week, we will not get our next supply until the end of March.
 3. The eligible group is still health care workers, 65 and older, food and agriculture, emergency services, and teacher/childcare
 4. We will be directing 40% to hardest hit areas of the state based on the lowest quartile of [healthy places index](#); more information can be found [here](#).
 5. Pharmacies partnering with the federal government to offer vaccines:
 - a. [CVS](#)
 - b. [Rite Aid](#)
 - c. [Walgreens](#)
 - d. [Albertsons](#)
 - e. [Safeway](#)
 - f. [Vons](#)
 - g. [Pavilions](#)
 6. More information about different variants can be found [here](#).

- Other CDPH updates:
 1. Earlier this week CDC released [new guidelines](#) for visitation with fully vaccinated people, outside of health care settings -- includes recommendation for residents in non-healthcare congregate settings.
 2. See this link for guidelines related to health care settings: [Updated Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations in Response to COVID-19 Vaccination](#).
 3. An All Facilities Letter with updated guidance for Skilled Nursing Facilities with increased visitation between fully vaccinated individuals will be released soon.

DHCS (Janelle Ito-Orille, Dr. Kelly Pfeifer)

- Reviewed new vaccine prioritization for people with disabilities, including those with disabilities due to serious mental illness or substance use disorders, as they are higher risk of severe illness and death from COVID-19. See above for details.
- There is still limited vaccine supply: keep in mind that being eligible March 15 does not mean everyone will get an appointment immediately.
- The Johnson and Johnson vaccine has less stringent refrigeration requirements, so it will be easier to deploy.

Health and Human Services Agency update (Stephanie Welch)

- More guidance on vaccines can be found at [main covid 19 website](#) and [DHCS meeting notes](#)
- Five ways to get the vaccine as of March 15th
 1. *Health Care Provider*. Health care providers who have vaccines can begin reaching out to patients with high-risk medical conditions or disabilities to schedule appointments.
 2. The Website "MyTurn.ca.gov": This site is accessible to people with disabilities and the telephone lines offer services in multiple languages. Self-attestation of high-risk condition or disability will be offered as of March 15.
 3. Local Health Departments – many counties have vaccine sign-up links.
 4. Pharmacies – see list above.
 5. *Community Partners: Assistance & Pop-Ups*. Some community partners serving people with high-risk medical conditions or disabilities are partnering with the vaccinator network to book appointments or offer "pop-up" vaccine clinics for the people they serve.

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

Questions and Answers

Vaccine questions: see guidance above.

Q: Any updates on the Stockton 12 bed covid (+) 5150 facility?

A: The Stockton COVID-19 unit is being decommissioned (closed) - they never received any patients and could no longer shoulder the cost associated with it sitting vacant.

Q: Can behavioral health hospitals that have previously received Moderna, request to receive Johnson and Johnson for mental health patients?

A: At this point, we are getting so little of Johnson and Johnson that it is distributing based on the allocation formula. When more inventory is available there might be more options available.

Q: Is there any guidance regarding mutual aid groups for fully vaccinated people? Assuming they may meet because they are not healthcare?

A: CDC posted [guidance](#) yesterday about small gatherings indoors if all individuals are fully vaccinated. This guidance is not intended to apply to health care settings.