



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



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

DATE: August 27, 2021

CCS Information Notice: 21-03

TO: All County California Children's Services Program Administrators and Integrated Systems of Care Division Staff

SUBJECT: Palivizumab for Immunoprophylaxis of Respiratory Syncytial Virus Infection during 2021-2022

The purpose of this Information Notice is to update the California Children's Services (CCS) program policy regarding the authorization of Palivizumab (Synagis™) for immunoprophylaxis of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) infection.

BACKGROUND:

RSV infection rates in the United States, and in California, remained very low through the expected 2020-2021 fall-winter season but began to increase in the spring of 2021¹. This change in pattern represents a notable deviation from the typical RSV epidemiology and is believed to be related to interventions to prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2, the virus responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic.

RSV activity is currently increasing in California, with corresponding increases in emergency department visits and hospitalizations of infants and children. It is unknown whether the current circulation of RSV will spread equally to all counties and increase to levels typically seen in the fall-winter season. It is also unclear how long this activity will persist.²

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides data on RSV state trends through the National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS).³ A table describing the past 104 weeks of RSV polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and antigen positivity data for California is available through NREVSS, at the following links:

[Link to California RSV PCR Table⁴](#)

[Link to California RSV Antigen Table⁵](#)

These tables containing data through the week of August 7, 2021 are provided as attachments to this information notice. Aggregate statewide data entail county-level heterogeneity. For example, the table of RSV antigen positivity data indicates a California statewide RSV antigen positivity rate of 4.7% for the week of August 7, 2021, while data from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health for the same week indicates a positivity rate of 2.5 – 3%.⁶

The data in the tables shown in the attachments describe a typical RSV seasonal pattern for 2019-2020. This typical seasonal pattern for RSV was not evident in the data for 2020-2021. RSV positivity data for the most recent 10 weeks of data in the tables (rows 95-104) suggest that California is entering the next RSV epidemic since the last annual epidemic of the 2019-2020 season, as values resemble those reported in November of 2019.

GUIDANCE FOR CURRENT ATYPICAL RSV SEASON

CCS Numbered Letter (N.L.) 13-0914⁷ describes program policy regarding authorization of Palivizumab immunoprophylaxis of RSV, and is consistent with guidance published by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Committee on Infectious Diseases and Bronchiolitis Guidelines Committee. The AAP recently issued interim guidance on prevention of RSV infection during the current atypical season.⁸ CCS, consistent with recent AAP guidance, supports use of Palivizumab as described below in patients who meet criteria specified in N.L. 13-0914 and reside in counties experiencing rates of RSV circulation consistent with a typical fall-winter season.

For the current apparent RSV season only (2021-2022), more than five doses of Palivizumab may be administered if county of residence RSV activity is consistent with a typical fall-winter season such as 2019-2020. For the current apparent RSV season only, providers may administer up to a maximum of 9 doses per child, if the child receives the first dose in August; monthly doses from August through April will provide protection through May.

Authorization requests for doses submitted outside the time period of a typical RSV season such as 2019-2020, and as specified in N.L. 13-0914, should be accompanied by county RSV positivity data for the time period reflecting the administered dose, confirming RSV PCR and/or antigen positivity rates consistent with values seen during typical past RSV seasons.

If you have any questions regarding this I.N., please contact the ISCD Medical Director or designee, via e-mail at ISCD-MedicalPolicy@dhcs.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Richard Nelson
Division Chief
Integrated Systems of Care Division

Attachment(s)

Attachment 1: RSV PCR for California

Attachment 2: RSV Antigen for California

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System. Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Surveillance.

<https://www.cdc.gov/surveillance/nrevss/rsv/index.html>

² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Changes in Influenza and Other Respiratory Virus Activity During the COVID-19 Pandemic — United States, 2020–2021. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2021;70(29):1013-1019.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7029a1>

³ National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System (NREVSS)

<https://www.cdc.gov/surveillance/nrevss/rsv/state.html#CA>

⁴ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System - PCR Data:

https://www.cdc.gov/surveillance/nrevss/images/rsvstate/RSV4PPCent3AVG_StateCA.htm

⁵ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Respiratory and Enteric Virus Surveillance System – Antigen Data:

https://www.cdc.gov/surveillance/nrevss/images/rsvstate/RSV1PPCent3AVG_StateCA.htm

⁶ Los Angeles County Department of Public Health Acute Communicable Disease Control, Covid Watch, Summary of Los Angeles County Department of Public Health COVID-19 Related Surveillance, Updated 8-13-2021, MMWR week 31 ending on: 8-7-2021:

www.publichealth.lacounty.gov

⁷ CCS Numbered Letter 13-0914

<https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/ccs/Documents/ccsnl130914.pdf>

⁸ American Academy of Pediatrics interim guidance on prevention of RSV infection during the current atypical season <https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/interim-guidance-for-use-of-palivizumab-prophylaxis-to-prevent-hospitalization/>

RSV PCR for California

Attachment 1

RSV PCR for CA
(3 week average)

	RepWeekDate	StateID	Percent Positive	Total PCR Tests
1	08/17/19	CA	0.490	401.667
2	08/24/19	CA	0.579	465.667
3	08/31/19	CA	0.737	511.667
4	09/07/19	CA	0.417	576.667
5	09/14/19	CA	0.572	623.000
6	09/21/19	CA	0.466	690.333
7	09/28/19	CA	0.714	1024.333
8	10/05/19	CA	0.695	1354.333
9	10/12/19	CA	0.807	1695.667
10	10/19/19	CA	1.058	1736.000
11	10/26/19	CA	1.140	1789.000
12	11/02/19	CA	1.668	1956.667
13	11/09/19	CA	2.125	2180.000
14	11/16/19	CA	2.897	2401.000
15	11/23/19	CA	3.611	2408.000
16	11/30/19	CA	4.731	2575.333
17	12/07/19	CA	6.199	2784.000
18	12/14/19	CA	8.128	3080.667
19	12/21/19	CA	10.069	3188.000
20	12/28/19	CA	11.839	3356.000
21	01/04/20	CA	12.115	3625.333
22	01/11/20	CA	12.132	4045.000
23	01/18/20	CA	11.603	4399.333
24	01/25/20	CA	11.914	4767.667
25	02/01/20	CA	11.708	4851.000
26	02/08/20	CA	11.755	4843.667
27	02/15/20	CA	11.471	4483.667
28	02/22/20	CA	10.637	4355.667
29	02/29/20	CA	9.296	4244.667
30	03/07/20	CA	7.421	4383.333
31	03/14/20	CA	6.216	3752.000
32	03/21/20	CA	4.814	2792.000
33	03/28/20	CA	3.518	1634.000
34	04/04/20	CA	2.253	1047.333

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35	04/11/20	CA	1.270	781.333
36	04/18/20	CA	0.896	649.667
37	04/25/20	CA	0.627	547.000
38	05/02/20	CA	0.428	438.000
39	05/09/20	CA	0.256	348.333
40	05/16/20	CA	0.000	322.333
41	05/23/20	CA	0.295	284.000
42	05/30/20	CA	0.295	260.667
43	06/06/20	CA	0.295	240.667
44	06/13/20	CA	0.000	212.667
45	06/20/20	CA	0.000	177.667
46	06/27/20	CA	0.000	153.333
47	07/04/20	CA	0.000	187.333
48	07/11/20	CA	0.000	209.667
49	07/18/20	CA	0.000	221.333
50	07/25/20	CA	0.000	196.667
51	08/01/20	CA	0.000	199.667
52	08/08/20	CA	0.000	192.667
53	08/15/20	CA	0.000	205.667
54	08/22/20	CA	0.000	202.333
55	08/29/20	CA	0.000	202.333
56	09/05/20	CA	0.000	194.000
57	09/12/20	CA	0.000	205.333
58	09/19/20	CA	0.000	223.333
59	09/26/20	CA	0.000	290.000
60	10/03/20	CA	0.000	348.000
61	10/10/20	CA	0.000	409.000
62	10/17/20	CA	0.000	435.000
63	10/24/20	CA	0.067	463.000
64	10/31/20	CA	0.067	476.000
65	11/07/20	CA	0.067	728.667
66	11/14/20	CA	0.000	994.667
67	11/21/20	CA	0.000	1221.667
68	11/28/20	CA	0.000	1286.333
69	12/05/20	CA	0.000	1421.333
70	12/12/20	CA	0.000	1701.333
71	12/19/20	CA	0.000	1778.000

RSV PCR for California

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72	12/26/20	CA	0.000	1718.333
73	01/02/21	CA	0.019	1628.667
74	01/09/21	CA	0.019	1605.667
75	01/16/21	CA	0.043	1573.000
76	01/23/21	CA	0.023	1468.667
77	01/30/21	CA	0.023	1456.000
78	02/06/21	CA	0.000	1516.667
79	02/13/21	CA	0.000	1580.333
80	02/20/21	CA	0.020	1612.000
81	02/27/21	CA	0.040	1639.000
82	03/06/21	CA	0.059	1683.667
83	03/13/21	CA	0.039	1704.000
84	03/20/21	CA	0.040	1686.333
85	03/27/21	CA	0.020	1530.333
86	04/03/21	CA	0.020	1222.667
87	04/10/21	CA	0.000	898.333
88	04/17/21	CA	0.052	691.000
89	04/24/21	CA	0.204	653.667
90	05/01/21	CA	0.204	631.333
91	05/08/21	CA	0.152	516.000
92	05/15/21	CA	0.114	394.333
93	05/22/21	CA	0.477	288.667
94	05/29/21	CA	0.920	289.667
95	06/05/21	CA	1.052	282.667
96	06/12/21	CA	1.105	297.667
97	06/19/21	CA	1.073	305.333
98	06/26/21	CA	1.443	305.000
99	07/03/21	CA	2.040	308.000
100	07/10/21	CA	2.208	315.000
101	07/17/21	CA	2.845	340.000
102	07/24/21	CA	3.649	352.667
103	07/31/21	CA	6.201	287.333
104	08/07/21	CA	7.423	258.000

Source for above table:

https://www.cdc.gov/surveillance/nrevss/images/rsvstate/RSV4PPCent3AVG_StateCA.htm

Accessed August 16, 2021.

Antigen PCR for California

Attachment 2

RSV Antigen for CA
(3 week average)

	RepWeekDate	StateID	Percent Positive	Total Antigen Detection Tests
1	08/17/19	CA	0.556	59.667
2	08/24/19	CA	0.556	64.000
3	08/31/19	CA	0.896	80.667
4	09/07/19	CA	0.340	96.000
5	09/14/19	CA	0.340	103.667
6	09/21/19	CA	0.267	112.667
7	09/28/19	CA	0.584	112.333
8	10/05/19	CA	1.686	117.000
9	10/12/19	CA	1.419	113.333
10	10/19/19	CA	1.640	119.667
11	10/26/19	CA	0.852	114.667
12	11/02/19	CA	1.332	123.000
13	11/09/19	CA	1.937	140.000
14	11/16/19	CA	3.719	157.667
15	11/23/19	CA	5.968	168.333
16	11/30/19	CA	6.786	161.000
17	12/07/19	CA	7.071	178.000
18	12/14/19	CA	8.979	197.667
19	12/21/19	CA	11.882	240.333
20	12/28/19	CA	15.230	255.667
21	01/04/20	CA	15.931	272.667
22	01/11/20	CA	15.794	268.333
23	01/18/20	CA	15.998	286.000
24	01/25/20	CA	18.406	287.000
25	02/01/20	CA	18.459	286.000
26	02/08/20	CA	17.718	290.000
27	02/15/20	CA	14.174	274.667
28	02/22/20	CA	16.307	276.333
29	02/29/20	CA	15.152	254.667
30	03/07/20	CA	15.373	245.667
31	03/14/20	CA	12.530	213.000
32	03/21/20	CA	10.217	166.333
33	03/28/20	CA	7.212	127.333

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34	04/04/20	CA	3.143	91.000
35	04/11/20	CA	1.418	73.333
36	04/18/20	CA	0.000	59.667
37	04/25/20	CA	0.606	57.000
38	05/02/20	CA	0.606	57.667
39	05/09/20	CA	0.606	59.667
40	05/16/20	CA	0.000	61.000
41	05/23/20	CA	0.000	55.333
42	05/30/20	CA	0.000	54.333
43	06/06/20	CA	0.000	53.000
44	06/13/20	CA	0.000	54.000
45	06/20/20	CA	0.000	47.333
46	06/27/20	CA	0.813	42.667
47	07/04/20	CA	0.813	39.667
48	07/11/20	CA	0.813	42.333
49	07/18/20	CA	0.000	44.000
50	07/25/20	CA	0.000	43.333
51	08/01/20	CA	0.000	41.000
52	08/08/20	CA	0.000	40.000
53	08/15/20	CA	0.833	40.000
54	08/22/20	CA	0.833	39.000
55	08/29/20	CA	2.222	32.667
56	09/05/20	CA	1.389	36.333
57	09/12/20	CA	2.069	41.333
58	09/19/20	CA	1.361	49.667
59	09/26/20	CA	2.085	48.000
60	10/03/20	CA	1.405	51.000
61	10/10/20	CA	1.366	52.000
62	10/17/20	CA	0.641	52.333
63	10/24/20	CA	2.090	48.333
64	10/31/20	CA	1.449	52.333
65	11/07/20	CA	1.449	61.333
66	11/14/20	CA	0.463	70.000
67	11/21/20	CA	0.463	71.667
68	11/28/20	CA	0.463	75.333
69	12/05/20	CA	0.000	105.333
70	12/12/20	CA	0.000	120.667

Antigen PCR for California

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71	12/19/20	CA	0.000	112.333
72	12/26/20	CA	0.000	101.333
73	01/02/21	CA	0.000	126.667
74	01/09/21	CA	0.629	159.667
75	01/16/21	CA	0.629	184.000
76	01/23/21	CA	0.629	174.000
77	01/30/21	CA	0.000	193.000
78	02/06/21	CA	0.000	183.667
79	02/13/21	CA	0.000	190.333
80	02/20/21	CA	0.000	159.333
81	02/27/21	CA	0.000	142.333
82	03/06/21	CA	0.000	119.667
83	03/13/21	CA	0.000	108.667
84	03/20/21	CA	0.000	100.333
85	03/27/21	CA	0.000	109.333
86	04/03/21	CA	0.000	129.333
87	04/10/21	CA	0.000	145.000
88	04/17/21	CA	0.310	170.000
89	04/24/21	CA	0.593	198.667
90	05/01/21	CA	0.732	230.000
91	05/08/21	CA	0.422	192.333
92	05/15/21	CA	0.139	143.000
93	05/22/21	CA	0.450	88.000
94	05/29/21	CA	0.971	75.333
95	06/05/21	CA	1.729	75.333
96	06/12/21	CA	2.304	72.333
97	06/19/21	CA	2.175	79.333
98	06/26/21	CA	2.482	81.333
99	07/03/21	CA	1.895	85.000
100	07/10/21	CA	2.044	97.667
101	07/17/21	CA	3.186	111.667
102	07/24/21	CA	4.692	126.333
103	07/31/21	CA	5.332	132.333
104	08/07/21	CA	4.690	130.500

Source for above table:

https://www.cdc.gov/surveillance/nrevss/images/rsvstate/RSV1PPCent3AVG_StateCA.htm

Accessed August 16, 2021