



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



GAVIN NEWSOM
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**DHCS BH All Provider Call
Brief Summary (updated 1/13/21 – *updates bolded with asterisk)**

Vaccine information for Behavioral Health Facilities:

CDPH has prioritized congregant care behavioral health facilities (both MH and SUD) as Phase 1a, tier 1, and outpatient behavioral health providers as Phase 1a, tier 2. The following information is provided by CDPH to ensure you have current information.

There are three ways for facilities to offer vaccines to staff:

1. Facilities can enroll in the state online registration system (to be announced soon) and administer the vaccine to their own staff. The minimum orders for Moderna vaccine are 100 doses and for Pfizer vaccine are 975 doses. Below you will find a number of requirements that facilities must meet for vaccine administration. Local health departments are currently allocating doses to providers in their local health jurisdiction; please contact your local health department to partner with them as to the best way to vaccinate your critical staff.

*** [Note: www.CalVax.org was designed for flu vaccines and will not be the system used for COVID-19 vaccinations. Stay tuned – more information to come.]**

2. Staff can obtain vaccinations through arrangements with the public health department. Some counties are starting to set up on-line registration systems; every county is managing the distribution independently.
3. Staff can go to their own primary care provider and/or health plan to receive vaccine (some delivery systems like Kaiser are vaccinating members who meet Phase 1a criteria).

Requirements to order vaccine directly:

Facilities that would like to vaccinate their own staff must meet vaccine storage and handling requirements, thermometer requirements to monitor cold storage temperatures, and medical oversight. Additionally, Immunization Registry participation is required, since all doses administered must be reported into the Registry within 24 hours. If your facility is not currently enrolled in the Registry, that is the first required step before enrolling in CalVax * **[enrollment information TBD]**. In addition, daily reporting of vaccine inventory is required into the federal Vaccine finder system. Since

the vaccine supply is limited, local health departments are currently allocating vaccines to providers in their jurisdictions. Enrollment into CalVax does not guarantee that vaccine will be allocated to your facility.

Local health departments have been alerted that behavioral health providers are prioritized in phase 1a.

***Local health departments are working quickly to make sure vaccine is available to those who need it.**

CDPH [released updated guidance](#) for moving through vaccine phases and tiers.

If facilities have difficulty reaching someone at the local public health department, they can reach out to their county behavioral health department, who can help facilitate the connection.

Notes from January 6 All-Facilities call:

California Department of Public Health (CDPH):

- Overview of the Vaccine Task Force and the COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force Working Group. See [website](#) for more information.
- CDPH is responsible for enrolling all providers into the COVID-19 Vaccination Program. Providers are required to agree to all CDC requirements, provide storage and handling information, and ensure they have access to the California Immunization Registry (CAIR), which is a secure, confidential, statewide computerized immunization information system. CDC requires all providers to complete this process prior to receiving vaccine(s).
- Currently working on Phase 1, but Phase 2 and 3 not started yet. COVIDReadi was used as an interim solution ***until CDPH launches the new provider enrollment website, launching soon.** CDPH anticipates opening enrollment more broadly once they get through transition and testing. NOTE – All instructions and links will be updated! Prospective enrollees must ensure they are enrolled in the vaccine registry first and they have appropriate storage units and temperature monitoring devices to ensure there are no delays in the application process.

How to prepare for enrollment (these will all be updated soon):

COVIDReadi Provider Enrollment: Before You Enroll:

<https://eziz.org/assets/other/IMM-1295.pdf>

Provider Enrollment Worksheet:

<https://eziz.org/assets/other/IMM-1307.pdf>

For questions regarding the CalVax system, contact the COVID Call Center covidcallcenter@cdph.ca.gov or (833) 502-1245.

- CDC provides states with weekly allocation numbers which is then put into a formula to determine the allocation of vaccines to health departments.

California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS):

Overview and update of the Medical Health Operational Area Coordination (MHOAC) and provided a local contact list: <https://emsa.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/71/2020/12/MHOAC-Contact-List-12142020-Public.pdf>

- MHOAC designed for local emergencies; not typically ever been used for behavioral health facility needs. However, CHHS committed to working with the MHOACs to adapt to this emergency, so the system can be helpful to BH providers for personal protective equipment and supplies. Staffing requests should go through MHOACs, but currently it is difficult to obtain new BH staff (and MHOACs are prioritizing staff for life and death shortages, such as in ICUs).
- There has been much discussion on the challenges and burdens on small BH facilities regarding the forms which are required to be completed to access MHOAC services. CHHS will look into ways to expedite and simplify this process.

Select Q&A

Q: How do we get vaccines, especially if we are not listed on the spreadsheet?

A: See information on page one, and the CDPH webpage:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/COVID-19Vaccine.aspx>

A: Additional guidance was released by CDPH on December 30, 2020 and provided to local health departments to include the following information:

1. Phase 1a, Tier 1: Staff of residential and inpatient SUD treatment, and staff of residential and inpatient mental health facilities
2. Phase 1a, Tier 2: Staff of outpatient SUD treatment, mental health facilities, and crisis stabilization units

The guidance provided by CDPH is inclusive of all SUD and MH treatment facilities.

***Local health departments are working quickly to make sure vaccine is available to those who need it. CDPH [released updated guidance](#) on January 7 for moving through vaccine phases and tiers.**

Q: What if you have less than 100 staff?

A: The minimum vaccine order for facilities who want to ORDER vaccine is 100. If you want to have someone else administer the vaccines, please work with your local public health department. We anticipate that the local health departments will be better able to meet the demands each week, as vaccine supply is limited.

Q: What if we can't reach our local health department?

A. Continue to reach out – local health departments are at varying stages of roll-out. Behavioral health facilities can also reach out to the county Behavioral Health Director for assistance connecting to public health. All local behavioral health departments were informed of the need to prioritize behavioral health providers with other health care providers.

Q: Will our admin and indirect service staff be able to get vaccinated?

A: Work with your local health department on the guidelines for who can be vaccinated in each tier.

Q: Will the emergency response system be able to bring counselors in from other states as is happening for physical medicine?

A. Please contact and work with your local MHOAC for any clarification needed on staffing. Program Contact Information can be found at the California Emergency Medical Services Authority website: <https://emsa.ca.gov/medical-health-operational-area-coordinator/> (MHOACs are currently prioritizing staff for life-and-death situations and require facilities to exhaust all other options first).

Q: We have been using Line list for all positives. How do we report to DHCS the COVID positive cases?

A. Positive COVID-19 cases at SUD licensed residential or outpatient programs can be reported to LCDQuestions@dhcs.ca.gov or to your licensing analyst.

Positive COVID-19 cases at a licensed MHRC or PHF can be reported to MHLC@dhcs.ca.gov or to your licensing analyst.