



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



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

DHCS BH All Provider Call
Brief Summary – 2/10/21

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

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

CDPH Updates (Dr. Erin Epton, Miren Klein)

- **Vaccine Updates**

1. See updated California vaccine guidelines [here](#)
2. Focus right now is only phase 1a (healthcare workers) and phase 1b tier one (65 and older plus agriculture, emergency services, and childcare sectors).
 - a. Update: Family care givers are now eligible as healthcare providers under phase 1 a.
3. CDPH is still looking at other high-risk conditions for future tier classifications.
4. Phase 1b tier one includes approximately 8 million individuals.
5. This week's allocation is 600,000 doses.
6. New FEMA-run sites in Oakland and LA
 - a. Focus on reaching in underserved areas.
 - b. Expected opening February 16.
 - c. By appointment on the website My Turn
 - d. Additional sites will be rolling out soon.
7. Third Party Vendor Blue Shield – in discussion about roles and responsibilities; more specifics coming soon.
8. Federal Retail Pharmacy Partnership Program
 - a. Launching this week with additional doses (not taken out of weekly allocation).
 - b. Starting with CVS and Rite Aid: both starting Friday, February 12.
 - c. Appointments are made through their respective websites and eligible Californians should not contact individual stores for appointments or go to stores seeking a vaccination without an appointment. Eligible individuals should be directed to the following scheduling links below for an appointment:
 - i. CVS: <https://www.cvs.com/immunizations/covid-19-vaccine> (live starting

February 11th). Additionally for CVS only, appointments can also be scheduled via CVS pharmacy app and eligible individuals without internet access can call CVS at 800-746-7287 for assistance on scheduling.

ii. Rite Aid: <https://www.riteaid.com/pharmacy/covid-qualifier> (live starting February 12th)

- d. 160,000 doses going to 128 CVS locations and 374 Rite Aid locations.
- e. Both pharmacy partners will be using Moderna.
- f. Priorities align with the state guidelines which is healthcare workers and the 65 and older population.
- g. CVS plans on 100 shots a day per clinic
- h. Rite Aid plans on 20 shots a day per clinic

- **Other CDPH updates**

1. Trends on infection rates and hospitalizations continue to improve overall.
2. Monitoring new variants:
 - a. UK variant increasing in prevalence, likely to become dominant in the coming months. It is more contagious but vaccine-susceptible.
 - b. Other variants (Brazil, South African) starting to be detected.
 - c. Ongoing work to determine if booster shots are necessary (unclear if different response to vaccine).
3. All non-pharmaceutical interventions still stand (face coverings, social distancing, quarantine)
4. Proof of documentation for immigration status is not a requirement for vaccine administration in the state of California.

Questions and Answers

Q. How will appointments be made available for CVS and Rite Aid?

A. All online appointments for these pharmacies will be made available on their websites.

Q. Is this vaccine available at CVS and Rite Aid throughout the state or specific counties?

A. Throughout state, but not all counties are included in this first wave. Check the pharmacy's website for specific county information.

Q. Can folks go to a CVS/Rite Aid outside of their county for a vaccine (if there isn't one available in their county)?

A. The focus for the pharmacy partnership is to focus on the communities that have a disproportionate impact – check website for requirements.

Q. To clarify, are all behavioral health workers part of 1A?

A. Yes, behavioral health workers are considered equal to medical health care workers; if you have any difficulty getting the vaccine, reach out to your local health department.

Q. What is the expectation for minimization of wasted doses due to no shows at pharmacy?

A. If there are no shows, facilities have the ability to vaccinate their own staff or reach out to others next in the tiers. It is required that clinics have a plan identified for no shows to not waste any vaccine.

Q. Will behavioral health clients in congregate care settings (residential treatment settings) will be prioritized at all in any of the frameworks?

A. No new guidance on this, it is currently being discussed.

Q. Some of our clients when hospitalized out of county are receiving one dose of a vaccine but then are discharged before the second dose. We are having a hard time getting them in for that second dose back in our county. Any guidance on how to do that?

A. Ideally, the second dose should be given by the hospital that gave the first dose. If this is not possible, the client should be able to get the second dose in the community, showing their vaccine card as proof of the first dose.

Q. What evidence will family caregivers need to provide to qualify for the vaccine in phase 1A?

A. Eligible family members must obtain documentation from their regional centers to be eligible for the vaccine.

Q. CCLD (Community Care Licensing Division) is requiring that providers document staff temperature and covid-19 screening questions. How are other providers recording and documenting this while still maintaining HIPAA compliance? In addition to this, another requirement of CCLD is that providers have a staff shortage contingency plan. How are other providers navigating staff shortages? Any resources?

Input from other facilities/attendees:

You could consider a daily staff attestation in which employees indicate they are symptom free, to include without fever at the start of their shift. The screening can still occur onsite, with a general posted checklist of symptoms, and then an accompanying attestation signed by the employee.

Encourage staff to self-monitor prior to coming on shift. If they don't, we are also making a thermometer available at entry to program and having them take their temperature prior to coming into the buildings. If they have any symptoms, it is up to the staff member to connect with their manager to inform them that they need to go home.

In terms of COVID positive cases, we have implemented an incident response team for our sites that includes executive staff and HR. HR holds information about positive staff members and works with directors to ensure protocols are followed to increase safety at the sites that are impacted.

In terms of staffing shortages- we implemented cross training for swing and NOC shift across all of our residential programs and we pay OT as needed to ensure coverage when folks are out. We have a small team of these staff members who have volunteered to work across these sites.

Q. What are TB testing requirements, considering CDC guidance to delay testing while receiving the COVID vaccine? I know for OTPs an exception is being made, will this also be allowed for other BH programs?

A. If the vaccine is administered before the TB test, the vaccine could theoretically effect the results of the TB testing. However, if TB test is done before vaccination it is fine. In general a TB test should not be collected until 4 weeks after the conclusion of the vaccine series. Guidance is forthcoming.

Q. Is there a list of psych hospitals that will accept COVID positive patients?

A. Yes.

1. College Hospital, Costa Mesa
2. Heritage Oaks, Sacramento
3. San Diego Acute Psychiatric Hospital
4. Ventura County Medical Center CSU

Please contact these facilities for details about admission requirements.

Please let us know if you learn of additional facilities, so we can inform the community.

Q. Will there be guidance for staff who are vaccinated? Will protocols change for these staff members?

A. The protocols are currently the same regardless of vaccination; vaccinations do not work in 100% of people, so it is still possible for a vaccinated person to get infected with COVID and be an asymptomatic shedder, infecting others. The precautions should still be in effect.

Q. Can QI or administrative staff be vaccinated if they are part of a health care system?

A. The following is from CDPH's [vaccine guideline website](#):

Workers included in the [Health Care and Public Health Sector from CA Essential Workforce](#) that are ***not considered eligible*** above for Phase 1a vaccinations include:

- #12. Workers that manage health plans, billing, and health information (as opposed to administrative workers in clinical or other settings referenced elsewhere in this sector).
- #22. Workers supporting operations of outdoor recreational facilities for the purpose of facilitating physically distanced personal health and wellness through outdoor exercise. Activities to facilitate outdoor exercise does not translate to direct occupational risk for COVID-19 patient exposures.