



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



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

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

[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)

- [PIN 21-03](#) Statewide Waivers For Licensing Requirements Related To Tuberculosis (TB) Testing And Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine
 1. Extending a state wide waiver regarding TB testing.
 2. Allow staff to start without TB test if they recently had COVID vaccine.
 3. Still have to do a self-assessment.
- [PIN 21-13](#) Mental Health And Supplemental Security Income Required Survey For Adult And Senior Care Facilities
 1. Revising PIN on visitation in alignment with CDPH.
 2. This survey is to assess the needs of people in the facility with severe disability who are on social security.

CDPH Updates (Dr. Erin Epton, Miren Klein)

- Vaccine Updates
 1. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is approved; we will get first shipment of 320,000 doses this week. The supply is limited, this is the only allocation we will receive until March 23.
 2. Of all three vaccines combined we will receive over 1 million first doses this week.
 3. We have administered 9.3 million vaccines and 2.9 million people have received both doses.
 4. Pharmacy retail partnership
 - a. Currently 3 partners (CVS, RiteAid, Walgreens).
 - b. 4th pharmacy added (Albertsons).
 - c. 348,000 doses will be distributed.
 - d. Targeted population expanded to include food and agriculture sector as well.

5. Third party admin (Blue Shield)

- a. March is a transition month as Blue Shield is meeting and onboarding.
- b. Will be contracting with providers (still need to be registered in My turn and vaccine registry).
- c. Will have full control of vaccine network by March 31.

DHCS Updates (Marlies Perez, Jim Kooler, Janelle Ito-Orille)

- Addictionfreeca.org
 1. Dashboard of OD rates, demographics, access to MAT services within each county and other resources.
- [California MAT Expansion Project](#)
 1. There is a lot of info on the website regarding projects for Opioid overdose prevention, this has extended to stimulants as well in the last couple of months.
 2. Opioid and stimulant project resources including open RFAs, training, calendar of events, and information regarding the 30+ projects.
- [Naloxone Distribution Project](#)
 1. The Naloxone Distribution Project (NDP) aims to reduce opioid overdose deaths through the provision of free naloxone, in its nasal spray formulation. Entities can apply to DHCS to have naloxone shipped directly to their address. Eligible entities include:
 - Law enforcement such as police departments, county jails and probation;
 - Fire, EMS and first responders;
 - Schools and universities;
 - County public health and behavioral health departments; and
 - Community organizations such as harm reduction organizations or community opioid coalitions.
- 988 number
 1. Creating a separate number from 911 to deal with mental health crises.
 2. Working with vibrant health.
 3. All 13 lifeline centers are working together over the next eight months to determine how this will be developed in California.
 4. [AB 270](#) and [AB 988](#) are two pieces of legislation related to this issue.
- [CalHope](#)
 1. Statewide counseling program.
 2. Significant investment in a media campaign.
 3. We have a warm line as well with crisis counselors available.

4. If these services aren't enough callers will be referred since none of CalHope is clinical.
 5. Phone Number: 833-317-HOPE
- Questions: LCDQuestions@dhcs.ca.gov or MHLC@dhcs.ca.gov

Agency update (Stephanie Welch)

We are actively engaging with the internal work group on developing clearer guidance regarding vaccine priorities

- There is more and more evidence that those with severe mental illnesses have an increased likelihood of dying due to COVID; we are working on this issue.

Questions and Answers

Q: I believe vaccinations will be extended to those with mental health challenges on March, 15 as well. What type of proof will individuals need to provide to receive a vaccine?

A: Director, Kim McCoy-Wade is leading a work group with the Department of Aging to determine how this can be operationalized. We are trying our best to find an efficient and effective solution.

Q: Please confirm the status of individuals in Residential Substance Use Treatment for the vaccine. My understanding is that these residents are not specifically prioritized for the vaccine.

A: This is tied into the updated guidance and we are working on this topic within a work group. Current guidance only has the three sectors, high risk conditions, and people with specific disabilities.

Q: Is there any data about how the vaccines protect against the different multiple strains of the virus? Is there any data about how the vaccine is protecting those who get COVID again? And lastly is there more data about how long the vaccine protects an individual?

A: There is no official guidance on this issue but we are following this issue closely.

Q: The links provided for CVS and Rite Aid to sign up for vaccines for healthcare workers continue to state "no slots available". Any other advice on how to get staff vaccinated?

A: We recommend to keep trying every day since appointments open up daily.

- a. [CVS](#)
- b. [Rite Aid](#)
- c. [Walgreens](#)

Q: What is the current guidance regarding staff who have been fully vaccinated subsequently getting exposed to COVID? Must they still quarantine as the vaccine does not, to my understanding, protect as well against one becoming an asymptomatic carrier?

A: CDC has put out guidance and CDPH will come out with guidance soon on this matter. CDC guidance for health care personnel with higher risk of exposure is to recommend that staff members still quarantine after a high risk exposure. Fully vaccinated staff who have had a higher risk exposure may still be allowed to work with ongoing monitoring if there is a staffing shortage.

Q: I'm curious about the recommendation on regular testing of vaccinated staff? Currently all staff are tested weekly.

A: For CCL licensed facilities, the surveillance testing remains at 25% of staff every 7 days.