

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

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December 23, 2021

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: BOOSTER SHOT MANDATE AND OTHER INFORMATION

Booster Shots

Yesterday, the Governor [announced](#) new requirements for healthcare workers and other people in California. The State's Public Health Officer also issued an amended Public Health [Order](#) (PHO) for adult care facilities and direct care workers to implement those requirements, and accompanying [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQs). This PHO requires booster shots for specified workers, and the weekly testing of specified workers eligible for booster shots who have not yet received their booster shots.

This new PHO amends the September 28, 2021 PHO (described in our previous [letter](#)) by adding a new section #7 and amending section #9. The new PHO maintains the definitions of employers, workers and exemptions. The new PHO requires, by February 1, 2022 or no later than 15 days after the recommended timeframe below for receiving the booster dose:

“All workers currently eligible for boosters, who provide services or work in indoor settings described in section (4) must be "fully vaccinated and boosted" for COVID-19 by receiving all recommended doses of the primary series of vaccines and a vaccine booster dose pursuant to Table A below.”

Table A in the PHO is below:

COVID-19 Vaccine	Primary vaccination series	When to get the vaccine booster dose	Which vaccine booster dose to receive
Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech	1st and 2nd doses	Booster dose 6 mos after 2nd dose	Any of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the United States may be used for the booster dose, but either Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech are preferred.

“Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices”

COVID-19 Vaccine	Primary vaccination series	When to get the vaccine booster dose	Which vaccine booster dose to receive
Johnson and Johnson [J&J]/Janssen	1st dose	Booster dose 2 mos after 1st dose	Any of the COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the United States may be used for the booster dose, but either Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech are preferred.
World Health Organization (WHO) emergency use listing COVID-19 vaccine	All recommended doses	Booster dose 6 mos after getting all recommended doses	Single booster dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine
A mix and match series composed of any combination of FDA-approved, FDA-authorized, or WHO-EUL COVID-19 vaccines	All recommended doses	Booster dose 6 mos after getting all recommended doses	Single booster dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine

Please note that for workers in facilities licensed by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), the requirements are slightly different, including a twice-weekly testing requirement. Details for these facilities can be found in a separate public health order for health care workers, [here](#). There also is an [FAQ document](#) for the health care worker public health order.

Under the PHO for adult care facilities and direct care workers, those workers with an approved vaccine exemption or who are eligible for a booster but have not yet received it, testing must be conducted weekly, commencing December 27, 2021. Details of this requirement are found in the amended section 9 of the new PHO. These workers also must wear a surgical mask or higher-level respirator at all times while in the facility or home.

Personal Protective Equipment

As a reminder, both the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) including face coverings, and the practice of public health preventive measures such as frequent handwashing, remain effective COVID-19 prevention methods and should be continued, as appropriate. It remains an employer's [responsibility](#) to provide a safe environment for its employees. PPE is available broadly in the open market. However, the Department understands that in some cases there may be difficulties in obtaining it. If PPE cannot be obtained through local efforts and resources, then requests from regional centers for PPE in specific quantities may be made to the Department's Emergency Officer, Tamara Rodriguez, at tamara.rodriguez@dds.ca.gov. The State may be able to provide masks, gloves, gowns, face shields and hand sanitizer in such situations, if available. The Department has been assured that all state-procured PPE meets the same specifications necessary for its FDA approval.

Other Information

The California Department of Public Health's (CDPH's) vaccine record guidelines and standards, including how to obtain records and provide proof of vaccinations, among other topics, is found [here](#).

The CDPH issues a daily press release containing the latest statewide COVID-19 numbers and other information that may be available. Those press releases can be found [here](#). (Please note that in 2022, this link may change to reflect the new year.) On December 22, 2021, the daily press release provided a significant amount of information, which is provided for your convenience as Attachment A to this letter.

The federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the first two pill-based COVID treatments. The first pill, called [Paxlovid](#) and manufactured by Pfizer, is available only via prescription, for people ages 12 and older who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are at high risk of progression to severe COVID-19. The second pill, called [Molnupirovir](#) and manufactured by Merck, also is available only by prescription for people age 18 and older, and the situations in which it may be used are very limited. Supplies of both pill-based treatments are expected to be limited during the first months of 2022. Please read the FDA's announcements for additional information.

This letter is intended to share information, connect you directly with the sources of that information, and therefore should not be considered legal advice. We will continue to keep you updated as additional information becomes available about COVID-19, vaccines, booster shots, and other public health and workplace guidance.

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Thank you in advance for ensuring this latest public health order and other information in this letter receive appropriate attention.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

PETE CERVINKA
Chief, Data Analytics and Strategy

Attachment

cc: Regional Center Board Presidents
Regional Center Administrators
Regional Center Directors of Consumer Services
Regional Center Community Services Directors
Association of Regional Center Agencies

Attachment A

The following information and resources were provided by the [CDPH](#) on December 22, 2021:

Omicron Variant

The recent emergence of the Omicron variant emphasizes the importance of getting a vaccine, booster, and taking prevention efforts needed to protect against COVID-19. As of December 21, 2021, 191 confirmed cases associated with the Omicron variant have been reported to the state. This number will be updated weekly with the other variants California is currently monitoring on the [CDPH Tracking Variants webpage](#). For more information about the Omicron variant, see the [Omicron variant fact sheet](#).

Stop the Spread: Get Vaccinated for COVID-19

The risk for COVID-19 exposure and infection continues as a number of Californians remain unvaccinated. Real-world evidence continues to show that the vaccine is preventing severe illness, hospitalization, and death. With the combination of colder weather keeping people indoors, the waning of vaccine and natural immunity, and more mingling among non-household members, public health officials urge Californians to get vaccinated and boosted as soon as possible to help prevent a possible winter surge in COVID-19 cases.

It is recommended that every vaccinated adult 18 years or older should get a booster as long as they received their second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine at least six months ago or they received their Johnson & Johnson vaccine at least two months ago.

Vaccination appointments can be made by visiting the [MyTurn website](#) (myturn.ca.gov) or calling 1-833-422-4255. The consent of a parent or legal guardian may be needed for those under age 18 to receive a vaccination. Visit [Vaccinate All 58](#) to learn more about the safe and effective vaccines available for all Californians 5+.

Your Actions Save Lives

Protect yourself, family, friends and your community by following these prevention measures:

- **Celebrate safely:** Take [commonsense steps](#) this holiday season to protect yourself, your family and your community as you celebrate the holiday season.

- **Upgrade your mask:** Good fit and filtration continue to be the best way to get the most out of your mask. The [best masks for preventing COVID-19 include the N95, KN95 and KF94](#). If you don't have access to one of these masks, wear a surgical mask or a surgical mask with a cloth mask on top. If you choose a fabric mask, opt for one with three or more cloth layers. No matter what kind of mask you wear, check the fit by avoiding gaps above the nose or on the sides.
- **Get vaccinated for COVID-19 and flu:** [It's your turn now!](#) It's recommended for everyone over six months of age to be vaccinated for the flu. For COVID-19, Californians age 5+ are eligible to make appointments or go to a walk-in site for vaccination. You can get your flu and COVID-19 vaccines on the same day.
- **My Vaccine Record** is an easy way to show vaccination status at venues or businesses that require proof of vaccination. Visit the [Digital COVID-19 Vaccine Record website](#) (myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov) today to get your vaccine record.
- **Stay Home & Get Tested if Sick:** If you are experiencing [symptoms of COVID-19](#) (fever, cough, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches), or believe you have been exposed, get tested, call your health care provider, and stay home and away from others. [Free, confidential testing](#) is available statewide. Avoid close contact with people who are sick and stay home from work and school if you feel ill.
- **Wash hands** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- **Travel tips:** Delay travel (both domestic and international) until you are fully vaccinated. See the [CDC's full travel guidance](#). If you decide to travel, it is recommended that all travelers arriving in California test for COVID-19 within three to five days after arrival, regardless of their vaccination status.
- **Avoid crowded venues** or areas when cases are high.
- **Add your phone to the fight:** Sign up for COVID-19 exposure notifications from [CA Notify](#).
- **Answer the call or text** if a [contact tracer](#) from the CA COVID Team or your local health department tries to connect.
- **Check with your local health department** about local conditions. Local health jurisdictions can implement protocols that are stricter than state guidance.

Tracking COVID-19 in California

- [Data and Tools](#) – Models and dashboards for researchers, scientists and the public

- [COVID-19 Race & Ethnicity Data](#) – Weekly updated Race & Ethnicity data
- [Cases and Deaths by Age Group](#) – Weekly updated Deaths by Age Group data
- [Health Equity Dashboard](#) – See how COVID-19 highlights existing inequities in health
- [Tracking Variants](#) – Data on the variants California is currently monitoring
- [Safe Schools for All Hub](#) – Information about safe in-person instruction

Testing Turnaround Time

- The [testing turnaround time dashboard](#) reports how long California patients are waiting for COVID-19 test results. During the week of December 5 to December 11, the average time patients waited for test results was 1.1 day. During this same time period, 71% of patients received test results in one day and 97% received them within two days.

Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C)

- As of December 20, there have been 767 cases of [Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children \(MIS-C\)](#) reported statewide. MIS-C is a rare inflammatory condition associated with COVID-19 that can damage multiple organ systems. MIS-C can require hospitalization and be life threatening.