

DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

1215 O Street, MS 9-90
Sacramento, CA 95814
TTY: 711
(916) 654-1897



September 15, 2021

TO: REGIONAL CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: UPDATES REGARDING FACILITY DIRECTIVES FROM OTHER STATE AGENCIES, COVID-19 VACCINATION, AND PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Updated Instructions for Licensed Facilities

Since our August 9, 2021 letter sharing various instructions from the California Departments of Public Health (CDPH) and Social Services (CDSS), additional instructions have been issued by each department. All CDPH instructions for health care facilities can be found [here](#). All CDSS instructions for community care facilities, including adult and senior care and children's residential settings, can be found [here](#). Both sites offer self-service subscription features (CDPH's is at its instructions link above; CDSS's subscription request page is [here](#)). Licensees already should be receiving these instructions directly from those departments.

Vaccines

Information about COVID-19 continues to evolve quickly. At this time of this letter, three vaccines have been authorized for use in the United States by the federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA):

- Johnson and Johnson is a single-shot vaccine available under an emergency use authorization for people age 18 and older.
- Pfizer / BioNTech is a two-shot vaccine available under an emergency use authorization for people age 12 through 15. It is fully approved for people age 16 and older.
- Moderna is a two-shot vaccine available under an emergency use authorization for people age 18 and older. Moderna has filed a formal request for full approval, which is pending review by the FDA and may be approved in the near future.

“Building Partnerships, Supporting Choices”

Booster Shots

At this time, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is recommending that “moderately to severely immunocompromised people” receive an additional dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine at least 28 days AFTER receiving their second shot. [There is no approval nor recommendation for an additional dose of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine at this time.] The definition of “moderately to severely immunocompromised people” is people who have:

- Been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
- Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Received a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response

People should talk to their healthcare provider about their medical condition, and whether getting an additional dose is appropriate for them.

The Department of Developmental Services (Department) will continue to share more information about vaccinations and booster shots when it becomes available. Several federal panels are meeting this week to further develop recommendations and/or make approval decisions. As always, frequently asked questions for consumers are available here: www.dds.ca.gov/corona-virus-information-and-resources/vaccine-testing/.

Pregnancy and Vaccination

The CDC has issued an [advisory](#) that all three vaccines used in the United States are safe for women who are pregnant, or trying to become pregnant. The advisory includes links to the underlying scientific studies and data.

Personal Protective Equipment

Regardless of vaccination status, both the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) including face coverings, and the practice of public health preventive measures such as handwashing, remain effective COVID-19 prevention methods and should be continued, as appropriate. It remains an employer’s [responsibility](#) to provide a safe environment

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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. Please note that "FDA-approved" PPE is required in many settings. Some items in the State inventory may have been procured prior to the FDA's approval process, and the Department has been assured that all state-procured PPE meets the same specifications necessary for FDA approval.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

PETE CERVINKA

Chief Deputy Director, Data Analytics and Strategy

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