

Members (CEOs, CMOs, CFOs, COOs),

Here is a run-down of COVID news related to: vaccine administration, hospitals surge support, federal funding flexibilities and federal scope/liability. Please note the highlighted Stay tuned for additional updates - everything is very dynamic right now. Let me know if you have questions. Thanks! LMc

Telebriefing for Dental and Medical Associations

Public Health will conduct a telebriefing to update dental and medical providers on the latest COVID-19 response, discuss the vaccination rollout plan, and answer your questions and listen to your feedback.

Friday, January 15, 2021, 3– 4pm (PST)

Telephone Call-in: 877-226-8152

Access Code: 4223122

Participants are strongly urged to call in 15 minutes prior to the start time of the call to check in.

Participants will need to provide their name and organization. Call starts promptly.

HOSPITAL SURGE SUPPORT

In last week's email I polled members about health centers either a) opening infusion clinics to lessen admissions, b) offering staffing support for hospitals, and c) opening up step down care to free up hospital bed. I've gotten responses from a number of members interested in each and had a follow up discussion with HHS today on items b and c (notes below). Stay tuned for more.

Hospital Staffing: Do you have any health care workers that can moonlight in hospitals to help with their workforce shortages? They are looking for people with inpatient experience, such as recent residency grads, physicians and nurses.

- **Staffing model:** The model is for the staff to be contracted with the State's contracted staffing agency that is supporting hospital surge. The agency would work with interested health care workers to assign them to a hospital. The agency has a set pay rate for providers based on licensure - HHS assures me they are very good rates - and the agency covers liability, etc.
- **Time Commitment:** Your staff would define how many hours they want to work and how far they're willing to travel. Each hospital decides how they handle onboarding, but typically their first shift is onboarding & shadowing another provider. They're 2nd shift would involve clinical care.
- **Next steps: Please send me the following information for any staffer interested.** We are collecting these and submitting to the state:
 - name,
 - licensure level,
 - contact info (phone & email),
 - desired number of hours per week (there is no minimum),
 - home location (city, zip) and max distance they're willing to travel.

Step Down: They are interested in building out existing recuperative care sites to increase their capacity - this is the easiest way to do this quickly. Any org with recup beds interested in this would work with HHS to determine what additional supplies (DME, beds, staff) they need and the acuity of patients they can serve. HHS would provide what is needed. Once set up they'd inform the transfer agencies so that they know to send patients there. **Contact me if you are interested in expanding your recuperative care services.**

VACCINES

Vaccine Distribution: DPH stopped all vaccine pickups yesterday—they've expended their allocation and will be meeting to figure out the next round of allocations. Even the DPH Points of Dispensing didn't receive their full allocation.

Vaccine Phases: The state has opened up the *option* for counties to expand vaccinations to other priority groups, including individuals over 65. LA is still on Phase 1a Tier 3 – we do not have the supply to move to Phase 1b at this time. 500,000 health workers still need to receive the vaccine, with only about 250,000 doses available. Find out exactly which groups are approved for vaccines and those that are coming soon here: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/covidvaccinedistribution/>

CCALAC is advocating for all health center patients to be considered as eligible in phases 1b and 1c, which includes essential service workers and patients with underlying conditions. Given the demographics of your patient population, it is likely that many would be eligible, or live with someone eligible, under these tiers.

Extra and/or Expiring Doses: Click here for guidance from LADPH on avoiding and managing extra and/or expiring COVID vaccine doses. This includes a listing of who to vaccinate with extra doses, or how to redistribute, if needed. Do NOT vaccinate staff family members. Per DPH: We understand the risk of home exposure but other community exposures remain so not effective. This is nepotism and most troubling in the public's eye. Places the entire vaccine program in distrust and at-risk.

Access the slides here: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/docs/PreventVaccineWastage.pdf>

CalVax Launch: On Wednesday, the state launched the new CalVax system. If previously registered via COVIDReadi, you should have received an email from CalVax (no-reply-calvax@cdph.ca.gov) prompting you to log in for the first time and change your password. You cannot access the system without this email. You must log in within seven days or your temporary password will expire. If you did not receive an email, check your junk and spam folders or search your inbox for an email from no-reply-calvax@cdph.ca.gov. For issues/questions, email covidcallcenter@cdph.ca.gov or call (833) 502-1245 (M-F, 9-5).

A step-by-step job aid is available to help providers log in and set up their account. Once your account is created, more job aids and instruction guides will be available in the "training" tab in the system. LADPH recommends reviewing the job aids and verifying that all your data is correct as soon as you log in.

CalVax Training and Office Hours: LADPH has also scheduled office hours and a demonstration session to provide users with a forum to call in and ask questions and get assistance navigating the system.

- Friday, January 15 (Provider Demo) 9:00 – 10:00am. Click [here](#) to join.
 - Event Number: 145 164 9816 / Event Password: Immunize2021!
- Friday, January 15 (Office Hours) 3:00 – 4:00pm. Click [here](#) to join.

Share your Vaccine Messaging/Resources with CCALAC: Please send communications/messaging materials and resources to CCALAC! We know some members are developing FAQs for staff and some patient-facing communications regarding vaccination. CCALAC would like to crowdsource from what members have created, and other communication campaigns, to create a toolkit for LA health centers.

We'd also love to use any pictures you can share of your leadership getting vaccinated. Please share your materials with Taryn Burks at tburks@ccalac.org.

CPCA Vaccination Survey, Respond by Jan. 20: CPCA has a survey out regarding vaccines to inform their work at the state-level. Please respond by Wed., January 20. One response per organization. https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/vaccine_distribution_part2

FEDERAL GUIDELINES

Liability/Scope: HRSA has added a [Vaccines section to their online COVID-19 FAQ](#). It contains new and updated information on liability protections (FTCA and PREP Act) and adding vaccination sites to scope.

Funding Flexibility to Cover Vaccine Costs: BPHC clarified that COVID testing money (ECT, H8E) cannot be used for vaccine costs, but other current health center funding can be. Please see the FAQ posted on BPHC website and included below. <https://bphc.hrsa.gov/program-opportunities/coronavirus-disease-2019/faq>. More information is available on the [Coronavirus-Related Supplemental Funding Allowable Uses Technical Assistance Resource](#).