

Feb. 19

Members (CEOs, CMOs, CFOs, COOs),

Here is a run-down of COVID vaccine news related to: White House vaccine discussion, federal FQHC vaccination initiative, state centralization, FEMA's mass vaccination site, DPH office hours, and upcoming webinars to support your vaccination efforts. Stay tuned for additional updates. Let me know if you have questions. Thanks! LMc

Discussion with Dr. Choucair

Join NACHC for "[America's COVID-19 Vaccine Plan: A Discussion with Dr. Bechara Choucair, White House Vaccinations Coordinator.](#)"

Tuesday, February 23 at 11am PST (2pm EST)

RSVP: <https://bit.ly/3ugdM0>

DPH Health Center Office Hours & Webinars

Office Hours: Starting next week DPH will host FQHC Office Hours on Tuesdays only (no more Fridays) from 12:00-12:30pm. Email your questions to amohamadzadeh@ccalac.org by COB Monday. Notes from the calls are sent out to all members and are posted on our website here <https://ccalac.org/resource-library/covid-19-resources/>.

Webinars: Click to view our recorded webinars on [MyTurn](#) and [Managing Fixed Allocations](#). Following are the planned topics of our future webinars. We'll record these webinars and send you the link afterward.

- **Thursday, February 25, 11am-12pm - Clinical and Operational Workflows:** CHCs will learn best practices in both the clinical and operational workflows for vaccine administration.
- **Thursday, March 4, 11am-12pm - Billing:** How to get paid for vaccine administration (note: see billing update below).

To Join: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89749374992>

Meeting ID: 897 4937 4992

+16699009128,,89749374992# US (San Jose)

+12532158782,,89749374992# US (Tacoma)

Problem: COVID 19 PE Coverage for Vaccine

This week issues arose related to using the COVID 19 PE/Uninsured Group to provide free COVID 19 vaccine for uninsured individuals, in addition to the testing and treatment services it already covers.

Unfortunately in the language DHCS originally submitted to CMS the program is structured so that only COVID positive individuals can receive subsequent treatments. Since the vaccine is considered a treatment, only vaccines for those who got tested and had positive result will be reimbursed.

CPCA and patient advocate groups are working with DHCS to solve this issue. Until then, COVID-19 PE only covers the COVID vaccine for people who test positive. Until this issue is resolved, [the HRSA Uninsured Program](#) covers COVID-19 testing, treatment and vaccine administration for uninsured individuals at Medicare rates. CCALAC is engaging with MHLA regarding this new issue.

Weather Impacts on Vaccine Shipments

Due to winter storms limited doses of Pfizer were shipped earlier this week, while all Moderna orders have yet to be shipped. All providers should expect delays at this time. Since managing next week's doses will pose a challenge for most sites, LADPH has drafted [planning guidance](#) so that doses are used effectively and sites continue to meet State requirements on excess inventory.

FEMA Mass Vax Sites - Call w HRSA/CPCA/Alameda Consortia

- FEMA sites at CalStateLA and Oakland Coliseum soft opened Monday, hard opened Tues.
- Both sites have been scaling up re appointments each day toward goal of 6,000 per day at each location. Have done about 12,000 total in Oakland, 7,500 at CalStateLA so far. Should be meeting 6K/day target by now.
- Oakland site tested a “secret code” strategy that gave codes to CBOs to share with their clients/community members that would unlock extra appointments – trying to ensure appointments are available for targeted populations. Approach needs further exploration/fine-tuning, even with codes, no appointments were available after first couple days. Possible codes were being shared.
- Overall the LA site has much more visible military “look” – it is staffed by uniformed National Guard. They recognize our concerns about this, and want to hear feedback on how this is being received in the community.
- In Oakland, they have launched 1 of 2 planned mobile units. LA mobile units have not launched yet. The FEMA mobile units are designed to do about 250 vaccinations per day. Conversations in LA around the mobile units are still underway. They are exploring how to leverage existing mobile capacity in LA County, get away from “big government” feel. Unclear exactly what this means.
- Reportedly in Alameda County, the mobile unit did not have anyone in military uniforms and had even covered the big FEMA logo on the vehicle. Unclear if same approach will apply in LA, we have made clear concerns about uniforms, etc. being visual deterrent.
- Preliminary race/ethnicity data was shared verbally (analysis not done yet to see if reflects the local community). CCALAC and consortia partners requested to see more data on utilization of the CalStateLA site, including walk-up vs. drive up data.

State Centralization

1. How can CHCs onboard with the TPA? Do they wait for a call from BS? Do they talk to their county? Blue Shield will be working with the counties to establish their local networks. It's best that CHC's connect with county health officials.
2. Is BS talking to the City Health Depts too? Is that being done by county? At this point we are focused on the 62 local health jurisdictions (mostly counties).
3. Will providers have to achieve equity and volume benchmarks? What are they and how will they factor into vaccine allocation? Requires follow-up. To my knowledge, individual providers will not have equity and volume benchmarks.

Biden Initiative