



**California Department of Public Health
Center for Health Care Quality
AFC Skilled Nursing Facilities Infection Prevention Call
December 16 & 17, 2020**

The webinar recording, handouts and notes can be found at the Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG) registration website <https://www.hsag.com/cdph-ip-webinars> and the CDPH Skilled Nursing Facility Infection Prevention Education website: <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/Pages/SNFeducation.aspx>

The Wednesday & Thursday CDPH SNF IP calls are cancelled during the last two weeks of December. These calls will resume January 6 & 7, 2021. Please register at: <https://www.hsag.com/cdph-ip-webinars>

Please join the CDPH weekly Tuesday All Facilities Calls on December 22 & 29. Call in: 844.721.7239; Access code: 7993227. For questions over the holidays, please contact the CDPH HAI team at HAIprogram@cdph.ca.gov.

The December 16th webinar presentation covered the following updates:

- Testing Taskforce Update
- COVID-19 Vaccine Update [CDPH Vaccine slides](#)

Testing Taskforce (TTF) Update

As of December 15, 2020, with data as of December 14, 2020:

- Number of new tests reported: **293,027** for a cumulative total of **27,845,066** of PCR tests
- 7-day positivity: **11.1%**
- 14-day positivity: **10.6% increase of 3.8% from prior 14 days**

<https://covid19.ca.gov/state-dashboard/>

<https://testing.covid19.ca.gov/>

Average test turnaround time (TAT) last week was 1.4 days with 87% < 2 days and 58% < 1 day

Given that testing volumes are going up across the state and country we wanted to let you know that California currently has the following in inventory, and it can be accessed through the MHOAC system through their LHJ

- Swabs 15.0 million
- Transport media 10.4 million
- BinaxNow Antigen test 2.1 million

In regard to the Valencia Branch Lab for access for testing processing, the TTF has developed a submission request form that will be available through the TTF website if you are interested in setting up a community site at your facility. Visit this website <https://testing.covid19.ca.gov> and click on the Valencia Branch Laboratory link.

Wednesday, December 16th Questions & Answers

Q: What is CDPH's position on the CDC 10-day and 7-day with a negative test for returning to work for Skilled Nursing Facility employees?

A: This is only for healthcare personnel during critical staffing shortages. We acknowledge that facilities may use crisis strategies for mitigating staffing shortages. CDPH recommends persons that reside in

congregate settings, continue to quarantine for 14 days in the absence of staffing shortages. We anticipate that this guidance will be put into more context for hospitals and nursing facilities in an AFL.

Q: Can family members bring in food, to the Yellow or Green zone, when the Facility has an exposure?

A: Gifts and food are acceptable. Visiting hasn't changed. The red and yellow restrictions still apply, but they can accept food and gifts.

Q: Can you please address how we dispose of vaccines in the unlikely event it is not useable?

A: The pharmacies coming in will take away any unused product. For LA County nursing homes, they will be trained from start to finish on vaccination handling.

Q: Can the 2 doses be administered >21 days apart?

A: CDC shared guidance on this. Vaccination on the second dose is recommended for Pfizer for 21 days. You can cut it short + or - 4 day window. There is no maximum number of days where you would need to start all over with vaccinations. Get the second dose as soon as they can. One dose is somewhat protective but second is the recommendation.

Q: Resident stayed in SNF less than 28 days. Who will give the 2nd dose?

A: There is a lot of layering of systems to let providers know who has been vaccinated. If the vaccination registry has a call reminder program, that could be helpful. On discharge, hopefully there will be more options where that second dose is available. We don't have a list just yet on where that second dose could happen.

Q: What recommendations do you have for staggering vaccinations for facilities which continue to be in the pharmacy partnership program? LA County has recommended staggering vaccinations to mitigate potential staffing shortages. Those working with CVS & Walgreens appear not to have that flexibility.

A: They are only able to provide 3 clinics over the course of 3 months. Healthcare staff should be vaccinated as soon as they are eligible. If staff have other options, they are encouraged to get the vaccine that way as well. Phase 1a is about getting the most people vaccinated as possible initially, but we know it takes time to get everyone vaccinated.

Q: Walgreens has said that they cannot schedule vaccination dates until the vaccine has been 'approved' by the state of CA. Has California approved the vaccine?

A: California has approved the Pfizer vaccine.

Q: Are there guidelines for those that decline the vaccine?

A: From an infection control standpoint, all preventive measures still need to be followed whether vaccinated or not. Employers can decide on their own policies. Be educated and informed, and encourage others to accept the vaccine.

Q: How shortly after a positive COVID test can one get the vaccine? Is it the same as with the influenza vaccine, which is after they have completed isolation?

A: Yes, if someone has active COVID, they need to have resolved symptoms before getting the vaccine.

Q: CDC/NHSN survey no longer asks for suspect cases. Will the CDPH daily survey eliminate this question for staff & residents? With the symptom list very long & our ability to clear very quickly with 2 tests, it is difficult to evaluate who CDPH would want included in this count.

A: Some of the data dictionary is federally required and some is additional that we have placed in there for CDPH. We'll get new information from the federal side to see what needs to be updated.

Q: Post Vaccination, what will be the guidelines to SNFs regarding isolations (Red, Yellow, Green, etc). Are residents who have been vaccinated returned to green or PUI units?

A: Cohorting should remain the same. Receiving either one or both vaccine doses should not determine whether residents are in "Green" or "Yellow" zones. Symptoms and test results should continue to be used as determining factors for cohorting.

Q: How can I find more information about CVS & Walgreens, and can I contact them with questions?

A: Here are the email addresses and websites for CVS & Walgreens.

CVS Information:

- Website: <https://www.omnicare.com/covid-19-vaccine-resource>
- Webinar: <https://cvsh-tv.qumucloud.com/view/B6DiTH0xfjc#/>
- Email: CovidVaccineClinicsLTCF@CVSHealth.com

Walgreens Information:

- Website: <https://www.walgreens.com/covidvaccine>
- Webinar: <https://wba.qumucloud.com/view/oDAT0v8obvH#/>
- Email: immunizeltc@walgreens.com

Thursday, December 17th Questions & Answers

Q: When will COVID-19 vaccine allocations be given to medical centers to treat high risk patients? We can foresee a scenario where SNF patients get their first dose at the SNF, and then are transferred to the hospital 21 days later when they are due for their second dose? My concern is that we will not be able to fulfill the second dose timely.

A: There will be future recommendations forthcoming. Consider why they are in the hospital if for acute reasons and if they are well enough to receive the vaccine. Inpatient vaccination is not yet in the recommendation so guidance will be forthcoming. There is no maximum time period for the second dose. If longer than 21 days, vaccinate at the next time available.

Q: Is there any information about continuing vaccination after the federal partnership for tier 1a? For example, Walgreens/CVS are vaccinating in January/February...can SNFs get Moderna in March/April 2021? Our SNF needs to continue vaccination for new patients and hires in the spring and we want to be sure that we can continue after the federal partnership.

A: The state is currently working with all major pharmacies, including Walgreens and CVS, to ensure stable supplies of vaccinations. In addition, the state is also working with wholesalers as well. The federal government is contracting with other pharmacies once the supply of vaccines is much greater. We recognize there is a gap in timing for SNF settings. The systems are being discussed to get continued vaccination.

Q: What is the possibility of getting false positive results in the antigen testing for COVID when one receives the vaccine?

A: The CDC has guidance on this. In the ACIP meeting slides and on their website, after a person is vaccinated, using the PCR and or antigen test will not be affected by the vaccine. The antibody test, however, could show a false positive.

Q: Will an email affirmation by a family for a SNF resident attached to a consent be ok?

A: This will need to be checked with the person doing vaccination. CVS and Walgreens are creating their own consent processes. You should refer to CVS or Walgreens for consent processes when they connect with your facility.

Q: Is there a vaccine information sheet (VIS) available for Moderna vaccine? If so where can we access it?

A: Moderna is still being reviewed and analyzed by the FDA. Once approved, that information will be released and made readily available to the public.

Q: If residents refuse the COVID-19 vaccine, can they remain in green zone?

A: Yes, they can remain in the green zone. We don't want to place an unexposed person in the yellow or red zones where there is a risk of exposure.

Q: Since we are a 12-hour hospital/SNF, do we need to mandate our part time staff to come in on their days off to get a second test done? Example: Does a staff member that only works on Monday and Tuesday need to come in on Thursday to get a second test?

A: Yes, they would need to come in two times a week. Testing on Monday and on Tuesday would not make sense, so they would need to come in an additional day later in the week to receive their second test. This is due to the CDPH and CMS requirement for two tests a week if your county positivity rate is >10%.

Q: Is it necessary to don and doff PPE for every patient in every room? For example, for an LVN to have a 90 second or so transaction with a patient to give medications, are they required to don and doff?

A: HCP can implement extended use of a respirator/face mask and face shield between residents when working with residents in the same cohort. If HCP touch the respirator/face shield, then they need to perform hand hygiene. Gowns are trickier and more problematic. We recommend avoiding reuse/extended use of gowns unless you have a supply crisis for gowns. Extended use of gowns is only appropriate in a cohort of residents with same diagnosis and no other MDROs. One strategy is to reserve gown use for areas where there is high resident contact. Med passing could be one activity where you would not need to use a gown. There is guidance on AFL 20-74 <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-74.aspx>. See table for more guidance. [CDPH HAI Program COVID-19 PPE, Resident Placement/Movement, and Staffing Considerations by Resident Category](#). Remember to contact the MHOAC if your PPE is limited.

Q: Question regarding [AFL 20.74](#): New guidance came out recently that seems to contradict this AFL. Can the reduced quarantined period be applied in a SNF?

A: No, we don't recommend that for SNF residents. There is a consideration in the guidance that says per persons that reside or work in high risk settings such as a SNF that they should still quarantine for 14 days. HCP in SNF who have high risk exposure outside the facility, would generally observe a 14-day quarantine unless there is a staffing shortage that would cause a 7-day quarantine with a negative PCR test.

Q: As we vaccinate our residents, are there any recommendations on vaccinating short term residents? Any liability on the SNF side?

A: For the second dose, this will be available through clinics that will be receiving supply. For individuals going to the hospital, it is important to determine why they are going to the hospital and if giving a vaccine is appropriate. We will also follow up with additional information on this situation.

Q: What's the process for SNF residents to get Monoclonal Antibodies for Treatment of COVID-19?

A: We unfortunately don't have the right person on this call to answer this specific question. We did cover this information on our Tuesday call. We are still working on finalizing these testing resources and treatments and will continue to provide further updates going forward.

Q: [AFL 20-48](#) - Where can we find more information on alternative care sites?

A: We have Sleep Train in Sacramento, Fairview in Orange county and Porterville in Central Valley. There is one in Imperial, but this one is just for Imperial county individuals. In addition, each county may also be setting up and operating their own alternative care sites. Continue to work with your local public health to see what the surge plan is and what potential alternative sites might be available.