



COVID-19 Health Equity Playbook for Communities

Strategies and Practices for an Equitable Reopening and Recovery



Equity Playbook Bulletin – March 2021

The [COVID-19 Health Equity Playbook for Communities](#) (Equity Playbook) supports local communities to achieve their Health Equity Measure as part of California's Blueprint for a Safer Economy and to build an equitable recovery. Through these [Equity Playbook Bulletins](#), the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Equity Technical Assistance Team continues to collect and share new equity resources, best practices and strategies.

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For more information about any of these resources, or to share suggestions for topics or resources to include in future Equity Playbook Bulletins, please contact our CDPH Equity Technical Assistance Team, Equity Playbook Coordinators: Katey.Rosenquist@cdph.ca.gov; Jessica.Lin@cdph.ca.gov; AnnaGabriela.Ycaza@cdph.ca.gov.

Announcements

- **Funding Opportunity: [Advancing Health Literacy to Enhance Equitable Community Responses to COVID-19](#).** The [Office of Minority Health \(OMH\)](#) has released a new funding opportunity titled, *Advancing Health Literacy to Enhance Equitable Community Responses to COVID-19*, with an award amount up to \$4,000,000 for urban communities; up to \$3,000,000 for rural communities. Applicant eligibility is limited to local municipalities and applications are due April 20, 2021, 6:00 PM ET. For more information, review the [notice of funding opportunity](#).

Immediate COVID-19 Response Strategies

Worker Protections

- **[Cal/OSHA Guidance for Agriculture and Livestock Work Settings](#).** [Cal/OSHA](#) has created a new best practices guide around COVID-19 prevention in *Agricultural and Livestock* work settings. This includes an explanation of preventative practices that promote safety in the workplace and steps for employers to implement to keep their employees safe. This guide is available in English and Spanish.
- **[Cal/OSHA Guidance for Food Packing Work Settings](#).** [Cal/OSHA](#) has created a new best-practices guide around COVID-19 prevention in *Food Packing* work settings. This includes an explanation of preventative practices that promote safety in the workplace and steps for employers to implementing to keep their employees safe. This guide is available in English and Spanish.

Vaccine

- **[Los Angeles County COVID-19 Medical Vulnerability Indicators](#).** The UCLA Center for Neighborhood Knowledge released a new [map tool](#) to support identification of COVID-19 risks and vaccination gaps. The tool includes neighborhood vulnerability indicators that combine pre-existing medical vulnerabilities with social and built environment determinants: 1.) Preexisting health condition, 2.) Barriers to Accessing Services, 3.) Built Environment Risk, and 4.) CDC's Social Vulnerability; as well as COVID-19 case and percentage vaccinated data. This resource can be used by CBOs, FQHCs, healthcare providers and faith leaders to support vaccine planning and dissemination especially for those experiencing barriers including homebound elderly, and others, who lack transportation and language access.
- **[Public Health Alliance Vaccine Equity Video Series](#).** [The Public Health Alliance of Southern California \(PHASC\)](#) recently launched *The Public Health Alliance Vaccine Equity Video Series: Promising & Actionable Practices for Local Health Departments* with the purpose of elevating promising and replicable practices for equitable vaccine distribution. The series works to showcase community-informed and equity-centered practices that specifically aim to reach disproportionately impacted low-income Californians and Californians of color.
- **[COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy and Acceptability in Multiethnic Communities: Implications for Public Health](#).** Combating COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy is critical to reducing health disparities. UCLA conducted an exploratory study on vaccine hesitancy in multiethnic Los Angeles communities and developed a policy brief to provide insights for public health vaccine policy, messaging, and outreach.

Crosscutting Strategies

Data

- **[Child and Family Well-Being during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#).** [Kidsdata.org](#) has introduced a new category to their site that features Wave One data (of three total waves) that describes child and family well-being in California during the pandemic. Kidsdata.org will regularly release new data over the coming weeks. Topics include Education, Health Care, and Social Activities, Supportive Services, Positive Childhood Experiences, and other related topics. The data cover California and seven regions within California. At the state level, findings are broken down by family income level, race/ethnicity, and the presence of a child with special health care needs in the household.
- **[UCLA AskCHIS Neighborhood Edition Resource](#).** [UCLA Center for Health Policy Research](#) and California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) updated their AskCHIS Neighborhood Edition™ with 2018 data: a GIS search tool for health indicators by ZIP code, city, county, legislative districts, and census tracts. Updates include new data and four vulnerability indices at the census tract level released in 2021, including a Preexisting Health Vulnerability Index that captures risk of COVID-19 infection and death due to preexisting health conditions.

Language Access and Cultural Competency

- **Indigenous Language Resources from Various Sources.** 1) LISTOS California has created audio files with COVID-19 and disaster preparedness information in many indigenous languages as part of their [Farmworkers Initiative](#). Audio files are also available in Spanish, Hmong, and Punjabi. 2) The [California Department of Public Health Office of Communications](#), as part of the Housing for the Harvest program, has created PSA's in indigenous languages as well as posters in English and Spanish. 3) [Mixteco/Indígena Community Organizing Project's](#) Radio Indígena has created the [COVID-19 Resources in Indigenous Languages for Southern Mexico](#) webpage with PSA's in indigenous languages.

Mental Health

- **New Toolkit for Preventing Trauma and Suicide During Catastrophic Events.** [Prevention Institute](#) has curated a new toolkit that shares strategies for preventing suicide and trauma during catastrophic events like the COVID-19 pandemic or other disasters. The toolkit, which was funded by the CDC and co-developed with the Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP), offers activities local government agencies and community coalitions can use both planning for and during periods of infrastructure disruption to assess their local contexts, populations most impacted by suicide, and promising strategies.

Community and Stakeholder Engagement

- **Grants Awarded to Community-Based Organizations for Outreach to California Communities Disproportionately Impacted by COVID-19.** The Center at Sierra Health Foundation, in partnership with the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) and the Labor and Workforce Development Agency (LWDA), has funded 110 CBOs throughout California to support community engagement, public health education, and encourage COVID-19 vaccination in hardest hit communities. This [news release](#) includes the details of the grants along with the [CDSS](#) and [LWDA](#) list of CBOs. This information can support awareness for potential partnerships between these CBO recipients and corresponding LHDs and other partners.

Longer-term COVID-19 Response Strategies

Schools and Childcare

- **COVID-19 and Reopening In-Person Public Health Consolidated Guidance 2020-2021 School Year.** This guidance document developed by CDPH includes information on in-person school reopening, guidance for reopening, and strategies to implement for confirmed or suspected cases in a school. Additionally, the [Safe Schools For All Hub](#) consolidates key resources and information related to COVID-19 and schools. New resources are added on a routine basis regarding guidance, safety plans, and includes interactive maps to see the school status on reopening for schools across California. School Administrators and Local Health Departments can submit technical assistance requests to the State Safe Schools Team [here](#).

Cross-sectoral Collaboration and Health in All Policies (HiAP)

- **COVID-19 - Racial Equity and Social Justice Resources.** [Racial Equity Tools](#) has compiled a list of COVID-19 resources that includes information that will help communities as they work to understand and respond to the moment and for the long haul. The COVID-19 Resources are arranged in several categories including analysis, health and community care, list of lists, organizing and solidarity, resource building & rapid response, resources and tools, and virtual work and online engagement.
- **New Report: Racism, COVID-19 & Health Equity.** The [California Budget & Policy Center](#) recently released a report titled, *Confronting Racism, Overcoming COVID-19, & Advancing Health Equity*, that calls for California to declare racism a public health crisis in addition to providing a high level overview on how health inequities are a direct consequence of historic and ongoing racism.

Population-specific Response Strategies

Asian and Pacific Islander: Data

- [COVID-19 Specialized Data for Asian and Pacific Islander Groups](#). The [UCLA Center for Health Policy and Research](#) released new data on its California Health Interview Survey (CHIS) Preliminary COVID-19 Estimates Dashboard that takes a closer look at the impact of the pandemic on Asians, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders. An infographic containing this data can also be found [here](#). The estimates are pooled data from July 2020 through September 2020 and represent a subset of questions that were asked in the 2020 CHIS to these racial and ethnic groups only.

Asian and Pacific Islander: Language Access

- [Community Resource Helpline for Older Adults and Caregivers](#). [The National Asian Pacific Center on Aging \(NAPCA\)](#)'s free 1-800 Multilingual Phone Helpline for older adults is available in eight different Languages (English, Japanese, Cantonese, Tagalog/Filipino, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Korean, and Spanish) and provides in-language support for COVID-19 Vaccine and COVID-19 emergency resources, Social Security, Medicare, general public benefits and more.

Black Older Adults: Communications and Mental Health Resources

- [COVID-19 Resources for Black Elders](#). [California Department of Aging](#) has added COVID-19 Resources for Black Elders to its COVID-19 Resources page. Resources include national, state, and local organizations' tools and information specific for Black elders; mental health-specific resources; COVID-19 vaccine information; and webinars.

Congregate Settings: Strategies

- [Health Departments Taking Action on Incarceration: A Framework for Advancing Health Instead of Punishment During COVID-19](#). [Human Impact Partners](#) has created a new resource based on collaborative work with community organizers advancing racial justice, community safety, and health equity. Together, they have identified recommendations for key prevention and mitigation strategies for health departments to address the issues of incarceration during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. This guide includes additional resources and case studies to help put the framework into practice.

Native American Communities: Communications

- [COVID-19 Communication Resources for Native American Communities](#). [Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health](#) has created COVID-19 communication materials for Native American Communities. Materials include videos, podcasts, editable social media toolkits, infographics, and factsheets. A range of topics are covered, including overview information, prevention, risk reduction, vaccinations, building vaccine confidence, quarantine and isolation in a shared living space, remaining connected at a distance and much more.

***Please note:** These resources, best practices, and strategies have been included based on self-identification or partner referral. This Bulletin does not represent CDPH's connection with, or approval or endorsement of, all the listed content and their sources. These materials are being shared to help support and elevate dialogue and collaboration across equity focused state and local teams*