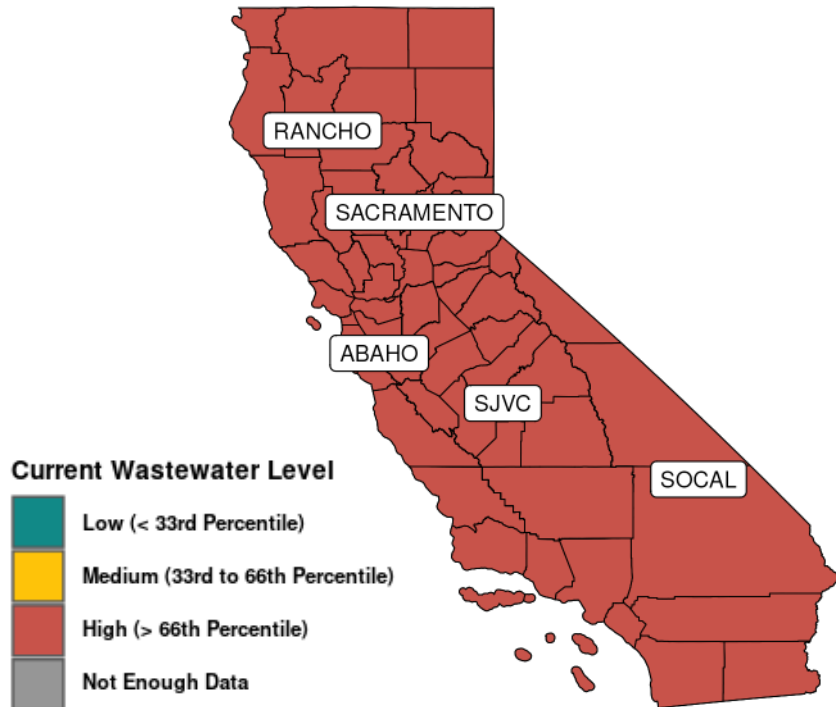


COVID-19 & Respiratory Virus Public Health Updates Winter 2023

Dr. Jessica de Jarnette
Covid-19 Therapeutics Task Force Lead
California Dept of Public Health

Statewide Wastewater Surveillance Overview for COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV

COVID-19 Summary: Wastewater concentrations are high in all regions of California and increasing in most regions (ABAHO, Greater Sacramento, San Joaquin Valley, and Souther California). In RANCHO, concentrations are high but currently plateaued.



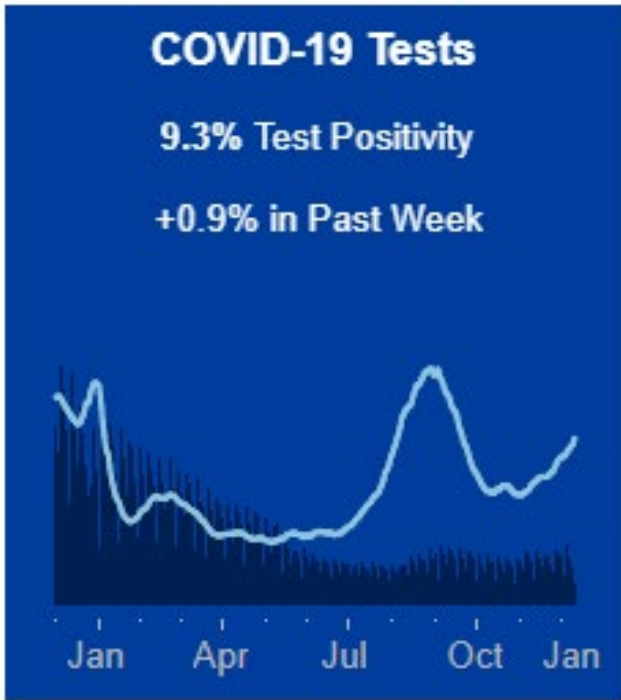
Influenza A Summary: Concentrations are increasing in Greater Sacramento, San Joaquin Valley, and RANCHO but have recently begun decreasing in ABAHO and Southern CA.

Influenza B Summary: Concentrations are low but detectable in about 48% of sites sampling. The number of sites with Influenza B detections is increasing.

RSV Summary: Concentrations are high in all regions. Concentrations are continuing to increase in Greater Sacramento, San Joaquin Valley, and RANCHO, but are decreasing in ABAHO and plateauing in Southern CA.

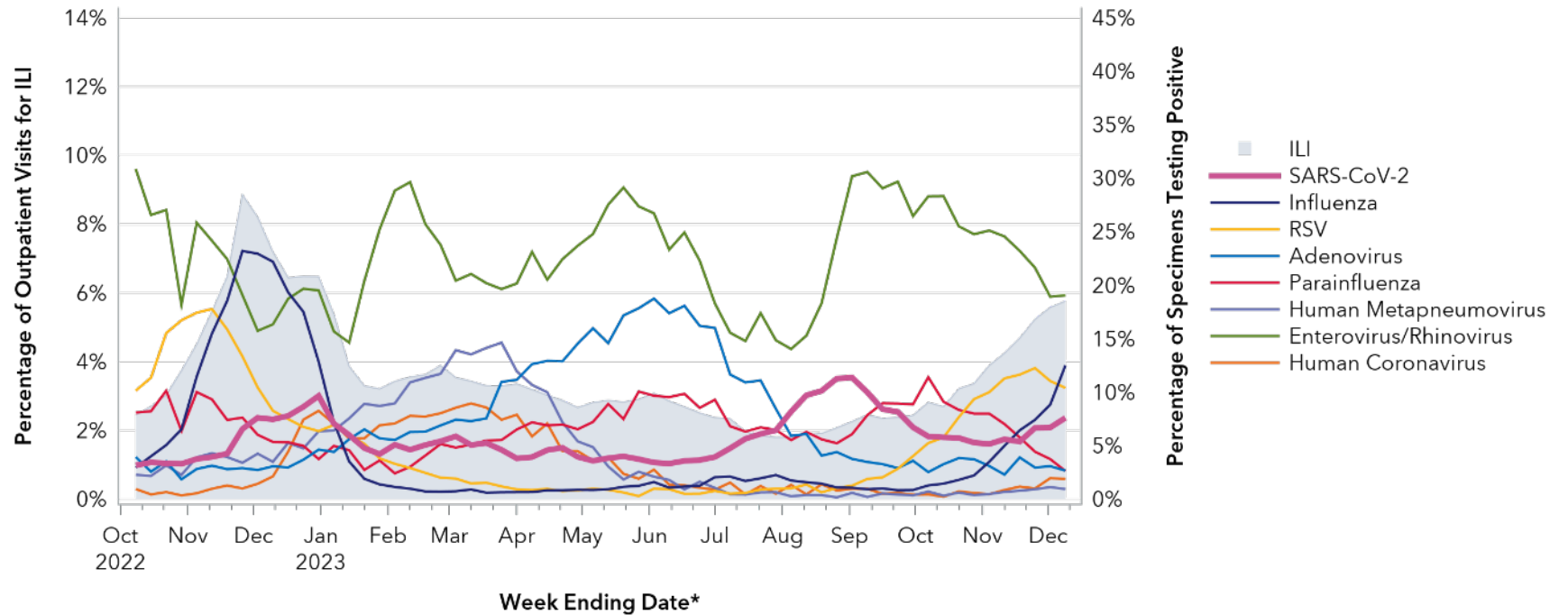
Influenza and COVID-19 test positivity increasing; RSV remains elevated.

COVID-19 test positivity



Source: SARS-CoV-2 ELR Reporting

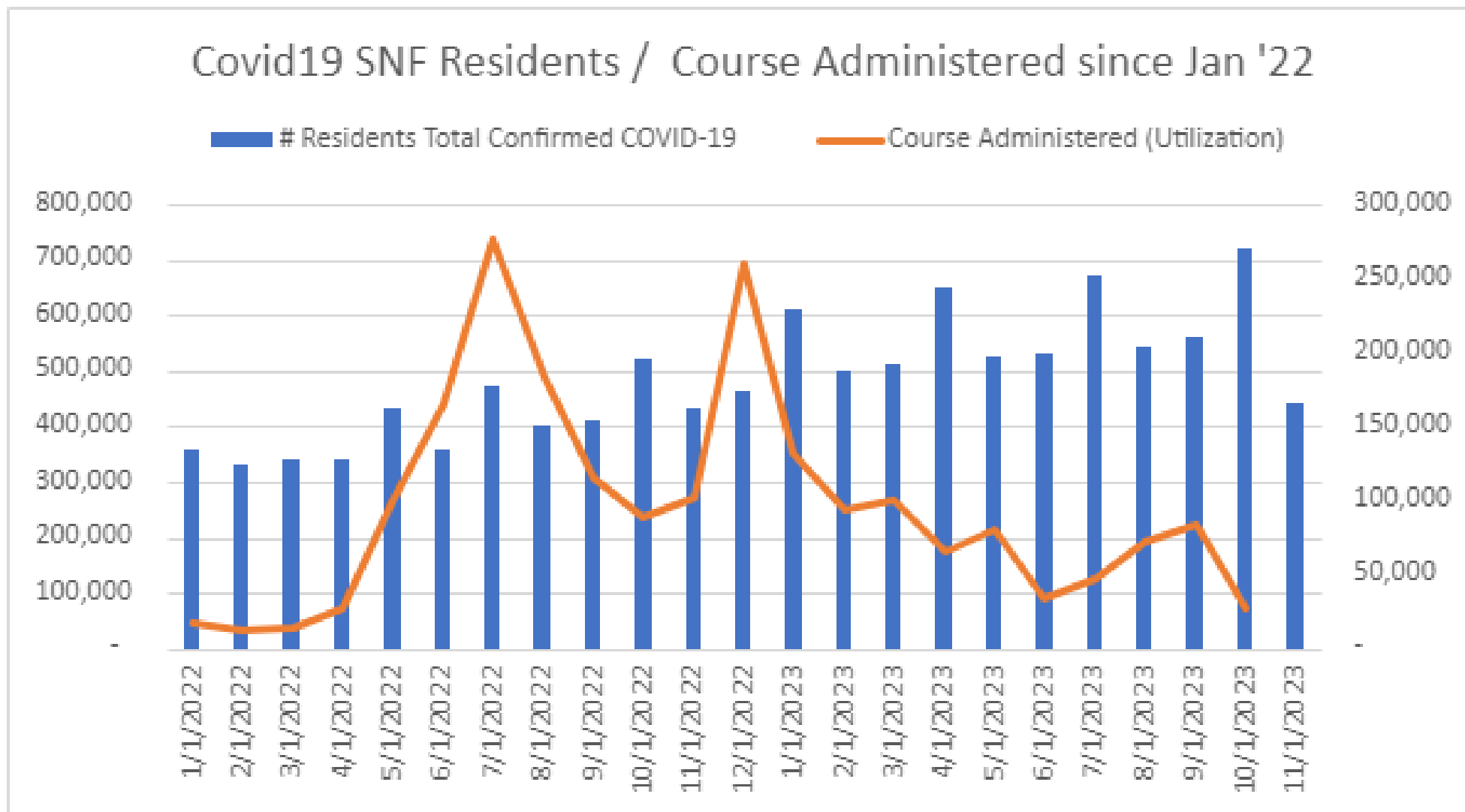
Percentage of Outpatient Visits for Influenza-like Illness (ILI),
Percentage of Specimens Testing Positive for SARS-CoV-2 and Other Respiratory Viruses



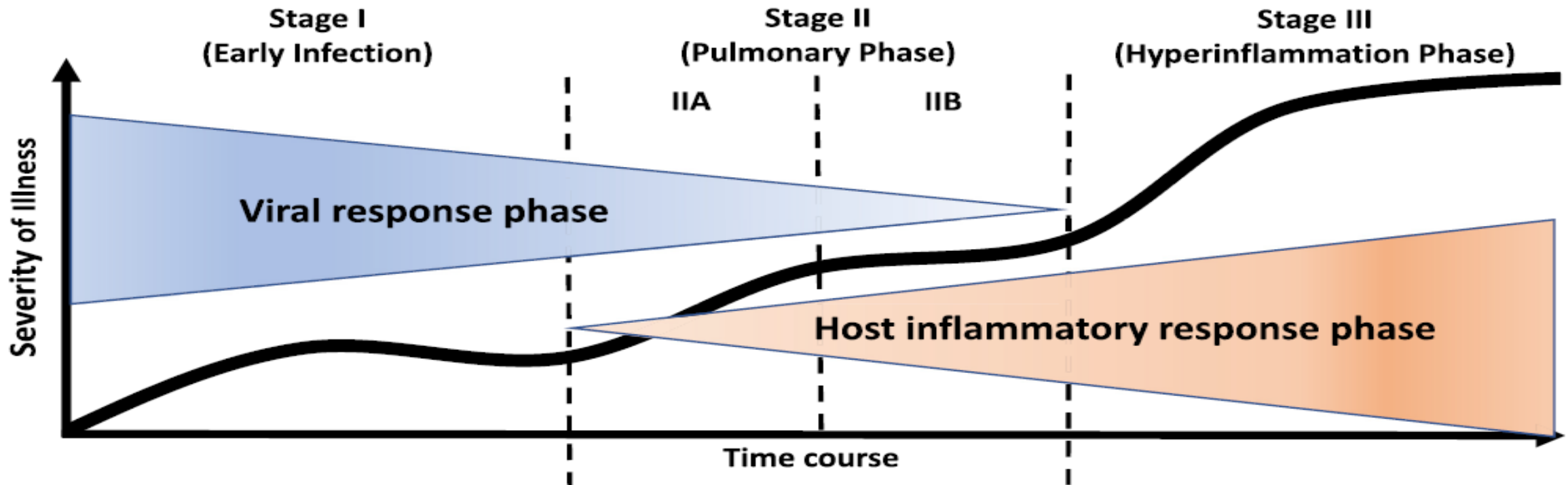
*Week ending date corresponds to specimen collection or specimen result date for respiratory viruses and outpatient visit date for ILI data. ILI data from sentinel providers; Respiratory virus data, including SARS-CoV-2, from clinical sentinel laboratories. Data are provisional and subject to change.

Laboratory Data Source: Sentinel Clinical Laboratories

Therapeutics Utilization in Skilled Nursing Facility Residents in California 1/2022-11/2023



Biphasic nature of COVID-19: viral → inflammatory stage

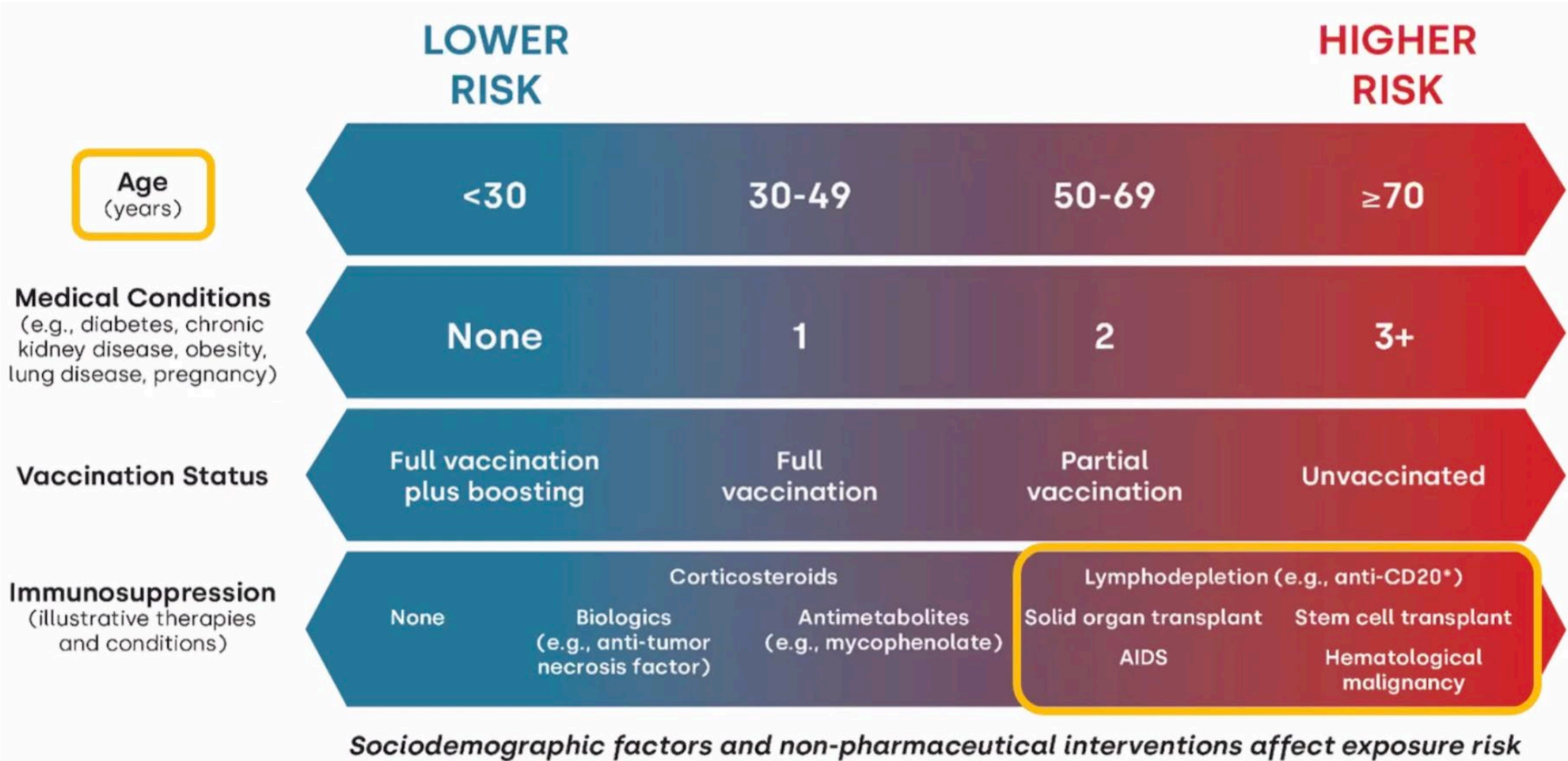


Important to consider **TIMING** of infection (2-3 weeks clinical course),
BIPHASIC NATURE of COVID-19 (Viral and Inflammatory Phase),
and **WIDE SPECTRUM** of severity and clinical manifestations

Asymptomatic/mild disease – loss of smell/taste – Long COVID – pneumonia/resp failure – MIS-C/MIS-A – thromboembolic - Death

- Because of bi-phasic nature, therapies must be appropriately tailored to disease phase:
 - Anti-viral agents are most effective when used **EARLY**
 - Anti-inflammatory agents are most effective when used **LATER**

COVID-19 Risk Continuum (age, immune status, co-morbidity, vax)



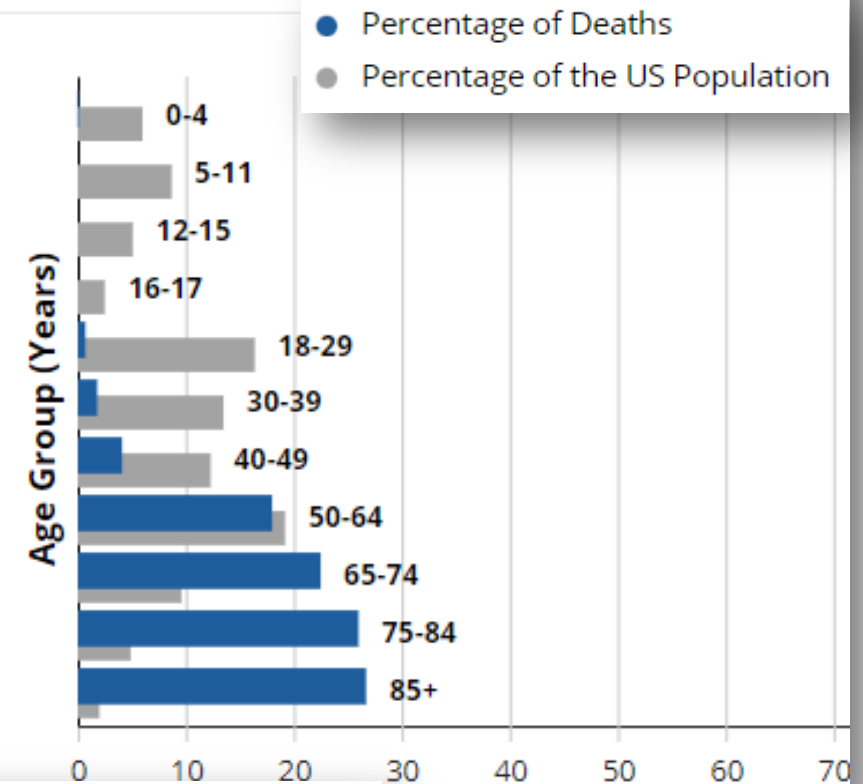
Original illustration by Dr. William Werbel. Adapted for the



Age is the most important risk factor for severe disease

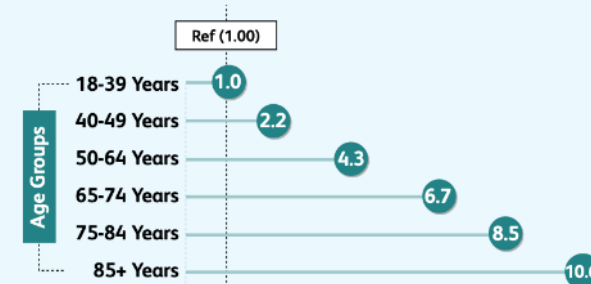
- In the United States, 81% of deaths occurred in those \geq age 65
- Risk of hospitalization/death starts to increase \geq age 50
 - (18% of deaths in 50-64 yr old group)
- Case Fatality rate by age:
 - ≥ 85 years 10-27%
 - 65-84 years 3-11%
 - 55-64 years 1-3%
 - < 55 years $< 1\%$

Data from 904,221 deaths. Age group for 903,386 (99%) deaths.



Rate compared to 18-29 years old ¹	0-4 years old	5-17 years old	18-29 years old	30-39 years old	40-49 years old	50-64 years old	65-74 years old	75-84 years old	85+ years old
Cases ²	1x	1x	Reference group	1x	1x	1x	1x	1x	1x
Hospitalization ³	1x	$< 1x$	Reference group	2x	2x	3x	5x	8x	15x
Death ⁴	$< 1x$	$< 1x$	Reference group	4x	10x	25x	60x	140x	340x

COVID-19 Death Risk Ratio for Select Age Groups and Underlying Medical Conditions

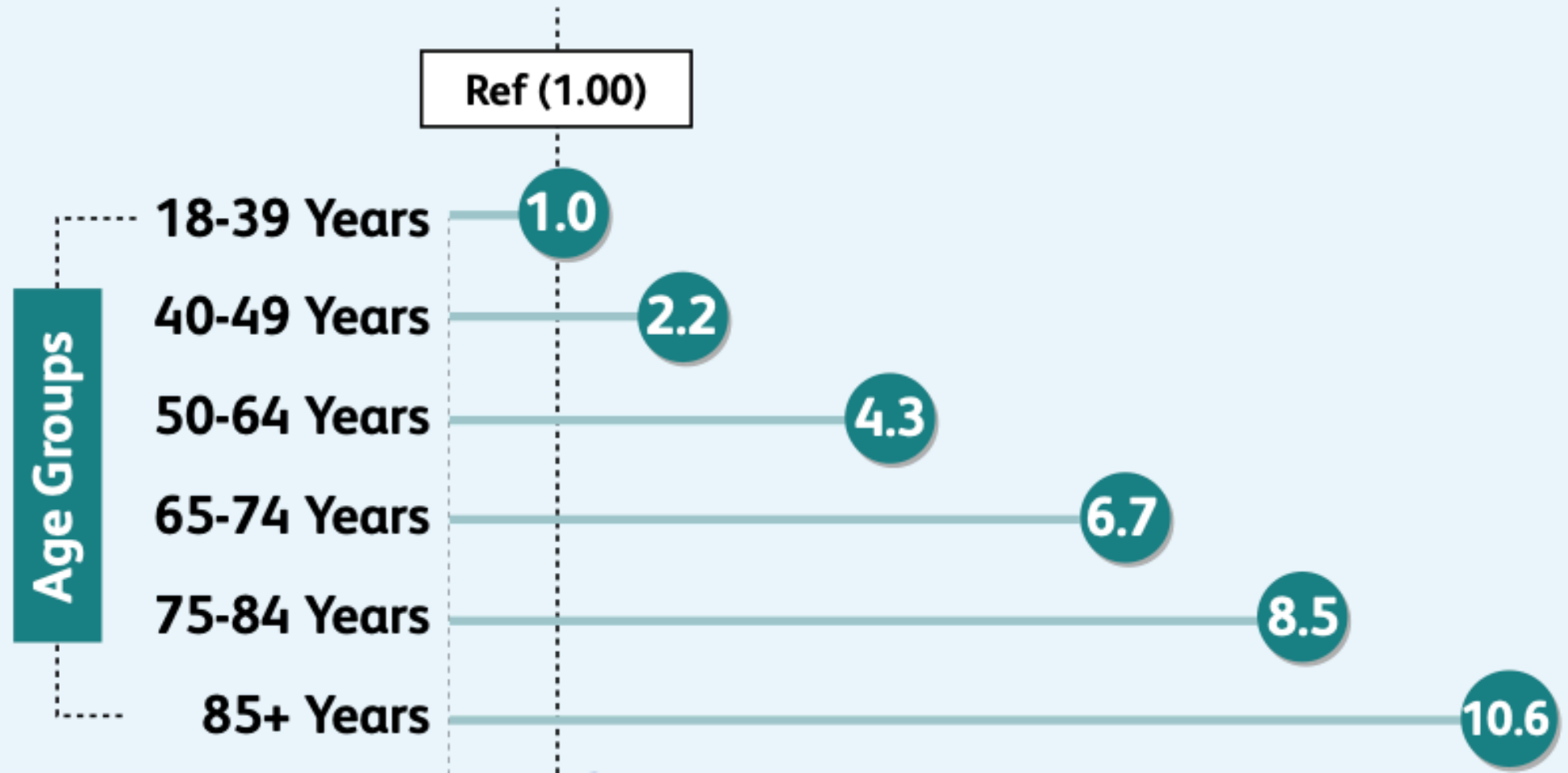


Kompaniyets L, et al. *PrevChronic Dis* 2021;8:E66
<https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#demographics>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/investigations-discovery/hospitalization-death-by-age.html>

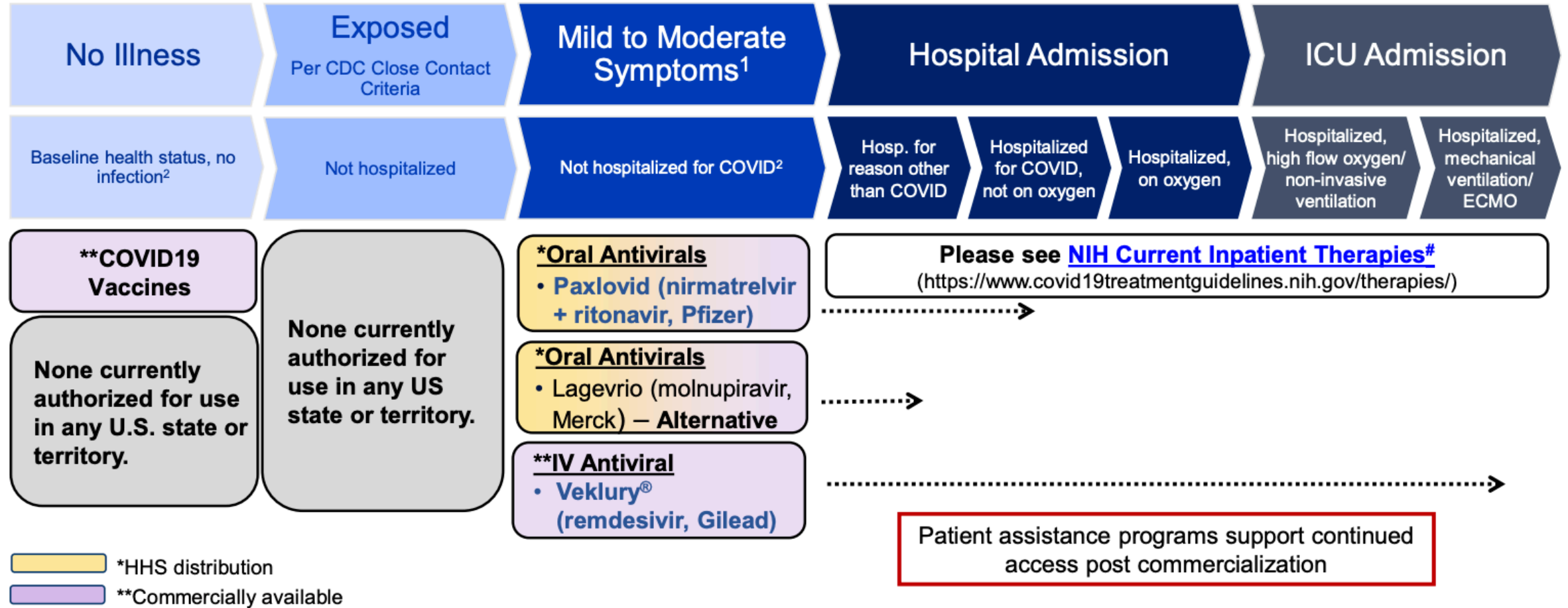
Age is the most important risk factor for severe disease

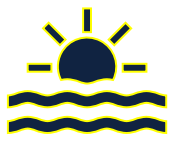
Data from 2019-2021, Deaths by Age Group

COVID-19 Death Risk Ratio for Select Age Groups and Underlying Medical Conditions



Summary of COVID-19 Preventative Agents and Treatments





Sunsetting

U.S. Government COVID-19 Therapeutics Distribution Program

Projected Timeline (All subject to change)	Action/Event	Product
10/2/2023	HHS switched Lagevrio threshold/replenishment to an out-of-cycle (OOC) process.	Lagevrio
11/1/2023	Commercial Lagevrio launch by Merck (unique NDC relative to USG-procured supply). Lagevrio available for purchase.	Lagevrio
11/1/2023	Commercial Paxlovid launch by Pfizer (NDA-labeled, unique NDC relative to Emergency Use Authorization (EUA)-labeled, USG-procured supply). Paxlovid available for purchase.	Paxlovid (standard and renal dose packaging)
11/10/2023, 12:00PM PT	Last day for awardees to submit orders for Lagevrio USG product (certain federal entities can continue to order USG supply).	Lagevrio
11/27/2023	HHS switch from the Paxlovid threshold/replenishment to an OOC request process.	Paxlovid (standard and renal dose packaging)
12/15/2023, 12:00PM PT	Last day for awardees to submit orders for Paxlovid USG product (certain federal entities can continue to order USG supply.)	Paxlovid (standard and renal dose packaging)
12/15/2023	Ordering pause for Lagevrio for HRSA, DoS, IHS, PC, BOP, ICE, and NIH to determine thresholds based on remaining USG inventory.	Lagevrio
11/15/2023 - 12/31/2023	Providers with excess USG-distributed, EUA-labeled Paxlovid are encouraged to return product through the Pfizer returns process to facilitate a credit to USG.	Paxlovid (standard and reduced dose packaging)

New California Health Alert



TOMÁS J. ARAGÓN, M.D., Dr.P.H.
State Public Health Officer & Director

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

Health Advisory

TO: Healthcare Providers

Update on COVID-19 Medications and Transition to Commercial Marketplace

12/18/2023

[Update on COVID-19 Medications and Transition to Commercial Marketplace](#)

Programs for Uninsured and Underinsured Individuals

Product	Programs	Description and Additional Information
Lagevrio	Patient Assistance Program	Merck Programs - Lagevrio (merckhelps.com) Tel: 800-727-5400
	Bulk Replacement Program	Tel: 888-727-8180 Website: Merck Programs - Lagevrio (merckhelps.com)
Paxlovid	Available Now	PAXCESS™ PAXLOVID™ (nirmatrelvir tablets; ritonavir tablets)
	Co-Pay Savings Program	Co-Pay Savings Program will be available for eligible
Paxlovid	Available Now	PAXCESS™ PAXLOVID™ (nirmatrelvir tablets; ritonavir tablets)
	Patient Assistance Program using USG supply	Website: PAXCESS™ PAXLOVID™ (nirmatrelvir tablets; ritonavir tablets) Tel: 1-877-219-7225 (1-877-C19-PACK) Through December 31, 2024: Anyone uninsured or covered by federal programs, such as Medicare or Medicaid, can receive USG-procured, NDA-labeled Paxlovid at no cost through the USG PAP operated by Pfizer. Through this program, participating PAP dispensing sites will be reimbursed for any product dispensed, along with a dispensing fee. For retail pharmacies that would like to learn more about participating in the U.S. Government PAP, please contact the program vendor at PharmacyNetworkContract102101@assistrx.com . Starting January 1, 2025: Eligible uninsured and underinsured patients can receive USG procured, NDA-labeled Paxlovid at no cost. Through this program, participating PAP dispensing sites will be reimbursed for any product dispensed, along with a dispensing fee.

Overview: PAXCESS Patient Assistance Program (PAP)

Supporting Patients Prescribed PAXLOVID through 2 Distinct Offerings

PAXCESS

Patient Support Program

Now Available

Now Available

Pfizer PAXCESS Co-Pay Savings Program

Commercially Insured

- PAXLOVID reimbursement through traditional healthcare system
- Out-of-pocket costs determined by insurer and PBM
- Through Co-Pay Program, eligible patients pay as little as \$0*

U.S. Government Patient Assistance Program (USG PAP)*:
Operated by Pfizer

Medicare

Medicaid

Uninsured

Paxlovid added to Medi-Cal Rx Contract Drug List

- 2024: PAXLOVID remains free of charge for patients eligible for USG PAP

*Eligible commercially insured patients can save up to \$1,500 per prescription. Maximum annual savings up to \$1,500. Terms and conditions apply. Please visit www.PAXLOVID.com/paxcess-terms-and-conditions for full terms and conditions.

*USG PAP eligibility also includes patients insured through TRICARE and the VA Community Care Network

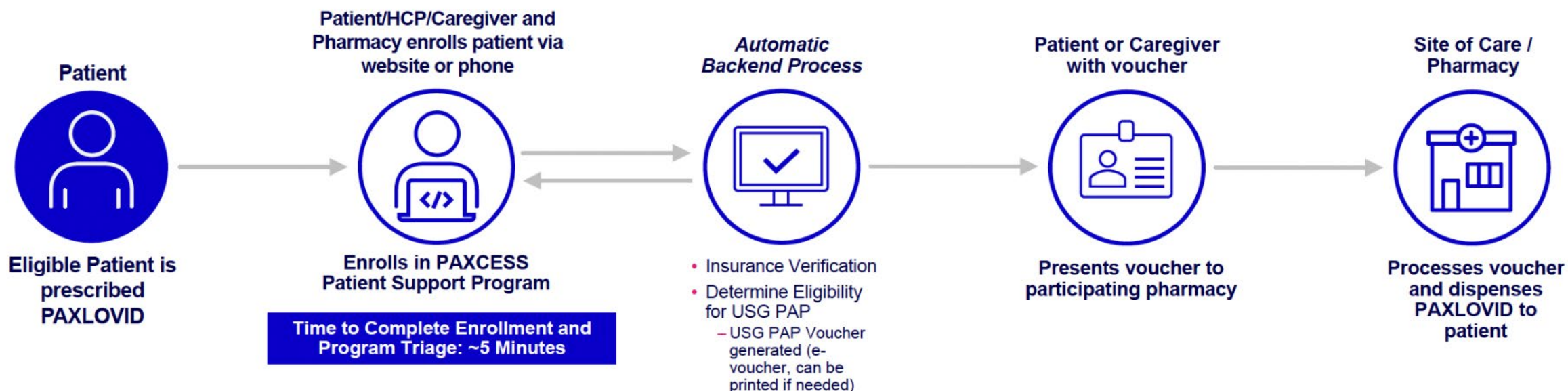
© 2023 Pfizer Inc. All rights reserved. PP-C1D-USA-0244 November 2023

Please see full Prescribing Information including BOXED WARNING at this presentation or at www.paxlovid.pfizerpro.com



[PAXCESS™](#) | [PAXLOVID™](#) (nirmatrelvir tablets; ritonavir tablets)

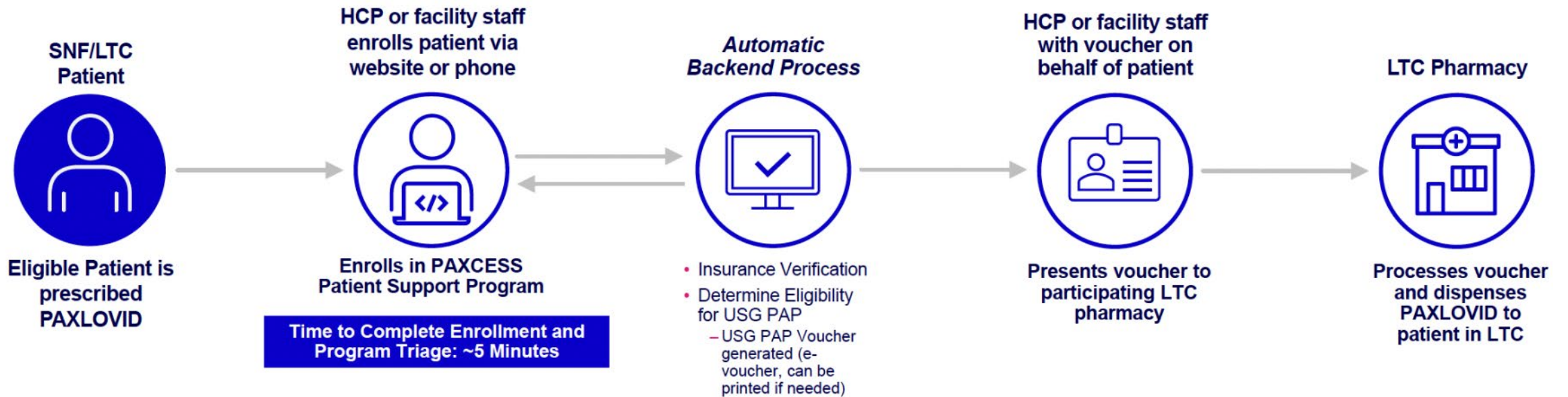
Retail Pharmacy Participating in U.S.G. PAP



[PAXCESS™ | PAXLOVID™ \(nirmatrelvir tablets; ritonavir tablets\)](#)

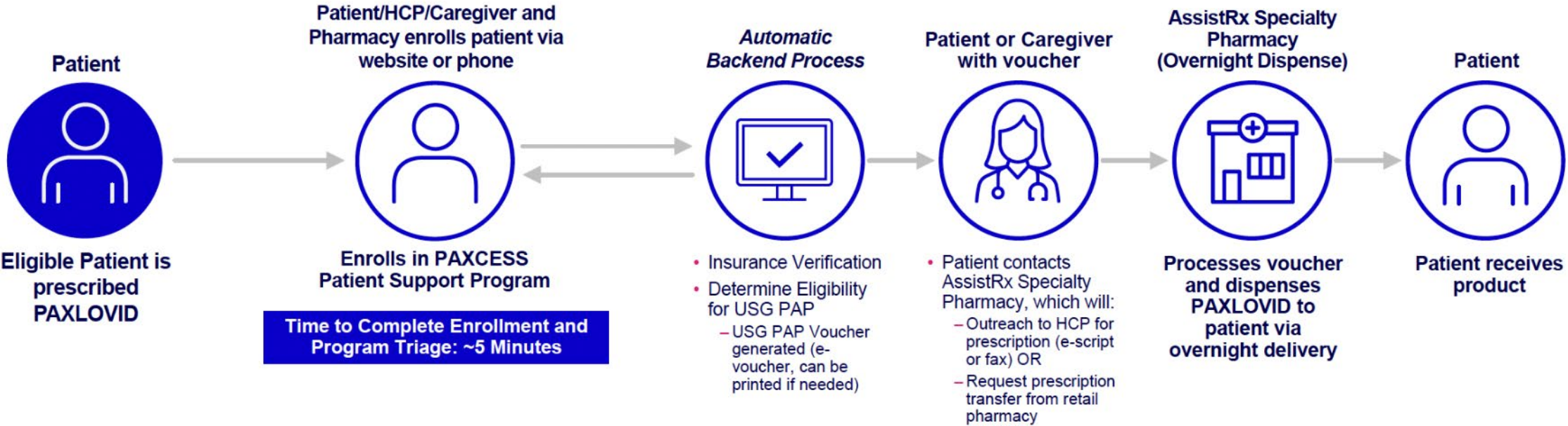
PharmacyNetworkContract102101@assistrx.com

Long-term Care Pharmacy Participating in U.S.G. PAP



Overnight Ship: Maintaining Access to Product

Relevant for: **Non-Participating Retail Pharmacy** **Participating Pharmacy: No Commercial Product Available** **Patient Requests Home Delivery**



End-to-end process time: ~24 hours*

*Exceptions include but may not be limited to: 3 PM ET cutoff for overnight orders; delivery and order processing not available on Sunday

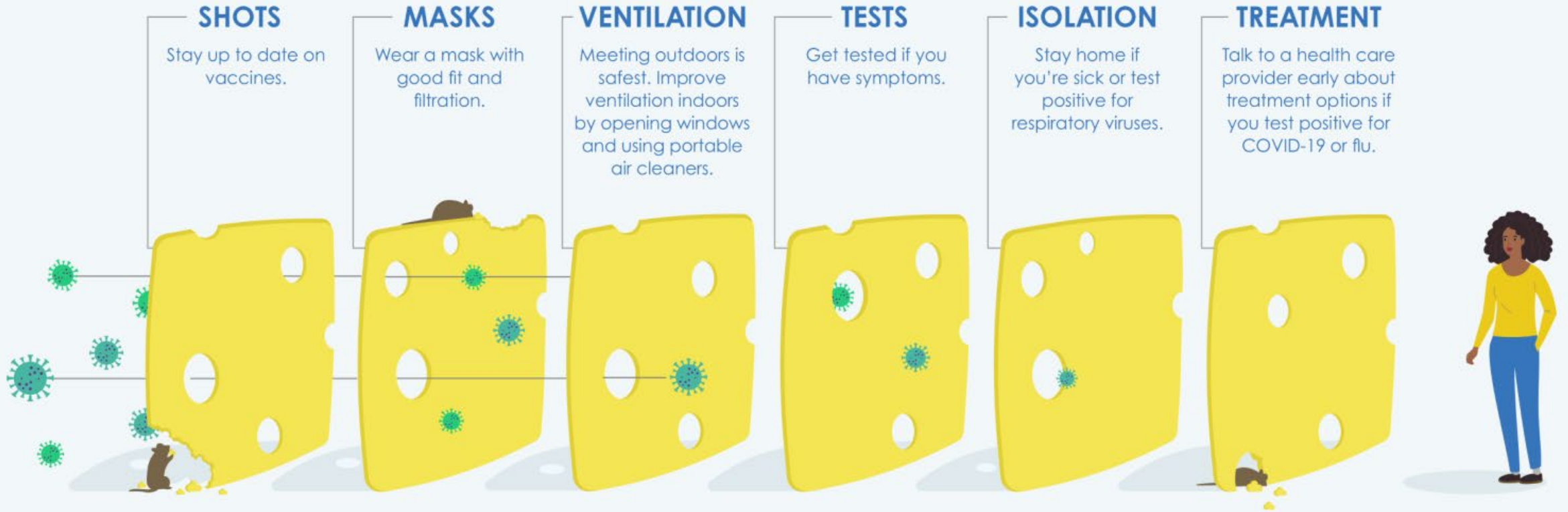
COVID-19 Medical Coverage Changes

Following End of Federal Public Health Emergency (PHE)

	Vaccines	Treatment	Testing
Medi-Cal Fee-for-Service	Free COVID-19 vaccines. ¹	Free COVID-19 treatment and related doctor visits is guaranteed at least until September 30, 2024. ²	Free COVID-19 testing if ordered by a doctor. Eight free at-home test kits per month are guaranteed at least until September 30, 2024. ²
Medi-Cal Managed Care	Free COVID-19 vaccines. ³	Free COVID-19 treatment and related doctor appointments. ³	Free COVID-19 testing, including eight free at-home test kits per month.
Medicare	Free COVID-19 vaccines with in-network providers. ⁴	Free COVID-19 oral medications. COVID-19 hospital visits and doctor visits with in-network providers are covered, but cost-sharing varies by plan. ⁵	Free COVID-19 testing if ordered by a doctor. The cost of at-home test kits for people with Medicare Advantage will vary by plan and might be free in some plans. Some Medicare Advantage plans may still provide free at-home COVID-19 tests. ⁴ Medicare – Dual coverage also known as Medi-Medi where Medicare does not provide coverage for over-the-counter (OTC) COVID tests, Medi-Cal will provide coverage for the OTC COVID antigen tests through the Medi-Cal Rx benefit.
California Regulated Private Plans	Free COVID-19 vaccines, treatment, and testing with in-network providers, ³ including eight at-home test kits per month via SB510. Using out-of-network providers may result in costs such as co-pays.		
Uninsured	Until December 31, 2024 through the Bridge Access Program (BAP) ⁶ : Low-cost or free COVID-19 health care provider visits at FQHCs and free clinics. Free COVID-19 vaccines at BAP pharmacies, community organizations, clinics and FQHCs. See more resources at the CDC Bridge Access program and Vaccines for Children . ⁵ COVID-19 oral antivirals (OAV) will remain no cost until the government procured product is depleted. Once government procured product is no longer available, uninsured patients will have access to free OAV through the manufacturer’s patient assistance programs. Learn more: testinglocator.cdc.gov . ⁷		

SMARTER Steps Protective Layers

No single intervention or "step" is perfect at preventing the spread of respiratory viruses, like flu, COVID-19 and RSV. However, the more "SMARTER Steps" you take, the safer you, your family, and your community are, especially if you or someone you live with is at higher risk for serious disease.



Awareness Campaign Resumed!

Radio, social media, and digital media to increase public awareness of COVID-19 treatments resumed on November 13, 2023.

Running in English and Spanish until January 15, 2024

Targeted to older than 50 population



Helpful Messaging Practices

- **"COVID-19 Medications"** or **"COVID-19 Prescription Medications"** rather than "COVID-19 Treatments"
- **Free?:** While government-purchased supplies last, the medications are free whether or not you have insurance or citizenship status
- **Emphasize:** Must be started within the first 5 days of symptoms (don't wait until symptoms get worse!)
- **Remind:** Recommended for most adults (and some teens). Many don't know that they have eligible factors.
- **Clarify:** For both vaccinated and unvaccinated

Toolkit: Handouts, Graphics, Videos, Wallet Cards



TEST IT. TREAT IT. YOU CAN BEAT IT.

Taken within the first 5-7 days of symptoms, COVID-19 medications serious and may h

1 快快检测

2 快快治疗

3 助你好好康复

有新药物治疗 面对病情不用怕

HAZTE LA PRUEBA. TOMA LA PASTILLA. GÁNALE AL COVID.

entos contra el COVID-19 pueden la enfermedad sea grave, y ayudan no más rápido, si los tomas dentro seros 5 a 7 días de los síntomas.

LEARN MORE

CDPH Public Health

COVID-19 Treatments Questions & Answers

Do have also effective tools to take questions of someone if he get COVID-19.

¿QUÉ son los medicamentos contra COVID-19?

Los medicamentos contra COVID-19 son fármacos que ayudan a combatir el virus del coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. Pueden ayudar a reducir los síntomas, a prevenir la enfermedad o a reducir el riesgo de complicaciones graves.

¿QUÉ síntomas pueden ser tratados con COVID-19?

Los síntomas que se pueden tratar con COVID-19 incluyen: fiebre, tos, dolor de garganta, pérdida de gusto y olfato, y fatiga.

¿QUÉ síntomas pueden ser tratados con COVID-19?

Los síntomas que se pueden tratar con COVID-19 incluyen: fiebre, tos, dolor de garganta, pérdida de gusto y olfato, y fatiga.

¿QUÉ síntomas pueden ser tratados con COVID-19?

Los síntomas que se pueden tratar con COVID-19 incluyen: fiebre, tos, dolor de garganta, pérdida de gusto y olfato, y fatiga.

CDPH Public Health

Preguntas y respuestas sobre los medicamentos para la COVID-19

¿Qué son los medicamentos contra COVID-19?

¿Qué síntomas pueden ser tratados con COVID-19?

¿Qué síntomas pueden ser tratados con COVID-19?

CDPH Public Health

¿TIENES COVID-19? ¡TOMA LA PASTILLA!

TRATARLO DE FORMA TEMPRANA PUEDE MARCAR UNA GRAN DIFERENCIA

1 ¿Te sientes mal? Hazte la prueba.

2 ¿Salió positiva? Consulta por medicación para el COVID.

CDPH Public Health

POSITIVE FOR COVID-19? TREAT IT!

GETTING TREATMENT EARLY CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

1 Feeling sick? Get tested.

2 Tested positive? Ask about COVID medication.

3 Call your doctor, urgent care, or the state COVID-19 hotline at **833-422-4255** and ask about the COVID-19 medications.

Learn more at: covid19.ca.gov/treatment

Source: California Department of Public Health

CDPH Public Health

Toolkit for Providers

Readiness Checklists, Best Practices Toolkits, and More

Updated flyer for LTCF staff!

COVID-19 Therapeutics Best Practices Checklist

Guidance Type	Checklist	Relevant Info
Training	<input type="checkbox"/> Test symptomatic patients. Share instructions on how to access home- or next-day testing. Note: A positive test is no longer required for oral COVID-19.	<input type="checkbox"/> How to get tested... Coronavirus COVID-19 Response (a.gov)
Prescribing	<input type="checkbox"/> Prescribe oral COVID-19 therapeutics to eligible patients.	<input type="checkbox"/> COVID-19 Therapeutics

California COVID-19 Therapeutics Best Practices Toolkit

For Clinics

THIS TOOLKIT HAS SIMPLE CHECKLISTS MY TEAMS CAN USE

NOW WE'RE PREPARED FOR THE NEXT SURGE

REFERS LINK TO QUICKLY ACCESS UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION

August 2023 • © 2023, California Department of Public Health

March 2023 • © 2023, California Department of Public Health

COVID-19 Surge Readiness: Long Term Care Facilities

Outreach to providers caring for your residents:

- Encourage them to review COVID-19 Health Advisory: Reminder to Lower Barriers to Prescribing

COVID-19 Surge Readiness

Best Practices for Skilled Nursing Facilities

Saving lives and avoiding hospitalizations

Oral antiviral therapy can help prevent hospitalizations and reduce the need for oxygen and other intensive treatments. Treatments are safe and effective, even with changing variants. Treatments can help residents, clients and staff from developing severe disease and may help limit the spread of COVID-19 in the facility. Preparing before a surge in COVID-19 case counts will help residents and staff get treated faster.

This notice reminds providers that all long term care residents are considered at higher risk for severe COVID-19 and the decision to not prescribe COVID-19 treatment should be reserved for situations in which the risk of providing timely treatment outweighs the benefits of treatment in preventing hospitalization, death, and the potential for reduced risk of long COVID.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) COVID-19 Therapeutics Task Force wants to support you in getting ready for potential COVID-19 surges in your facility. CDPH understands that facilities do not control the actions and decisions of individual health care providers. However, you can help facilitate treatments for your residents and staff with preparatory education, case review, and getting the right plans into place. The CDPH COVID-19 Therapeutics Task Force is available to assist you with developing best practices and education for your situation. You can contact us at: COVID19Providers@cdph.ca.gov or give us a call (833) 583-3248 from Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. You can also visit the Provider COVID-19 Call Center email: COVID19Provider@cdph.ca.gov

Surge preparedness topic baseline strategies

- Encourage wearing masks with good fit and filtration like N95s, KN95s and KF95s
- Isolating and cohorting ill patients
- Testing staff and residents with symptoms
- Preparing for increasing use of COVID-19 therapeutics
 - Reach out to your residents' health care providers
 - Confirm supply with your pharmacy, if possible
 - Develop a plan
 - Train your staff
 - Inform residents about representation of treatment availability

July 2023 • © 2023, California Department of Public Health

Even if your symptoms are mild, treating COVID-19 quickly can help prevent you from getting severely ill.

GET COVID-19 TREATMENT!

COVID-19 treatment is safe, and effective—and most adults are eligible to receive it.

IF YOU HAVE A POSITIVE TEST AND ANY SYMPTOMS:

- Call your health care provider right away, or...
- If you don't have a regular health care provider or cannot see them in 24 hours, as a long term care facility worker, you can access a FREE appointment with a health care provider by calling **Sesame Care** at (833) 686-5051 or visiting [sesamecare.com/covid19](https://www.sesamecare.com/covid19) to be evaluated for treatment, or...
- Visit [testtotreat.org](https://www.testtotreat.org) to sign up for the National Home Test to Treat Program, which offers free COVID-19 telehealth care in addition to at-home tests. Free home delivery of medications is also available through this program but act fast as COVID-19 medications must be taken within the first 5 days of symptoms.
- Scan QR code for instructions on what to do if you test positive for COVID-19.

DON'T DELAY...

You must start taking COVID-19 medications as soon as possible after your symptoms appear.

You can help save lives by helping your residents get access to COVID-19 medications too! Refer positive residents with symptoms to a health care provider!

California Department of Public Health | COVID-19 Therapeutics
CTX-1009 (11/23-13)

California Department of Public Health

Respiratory Virus Prevention Communications Tools



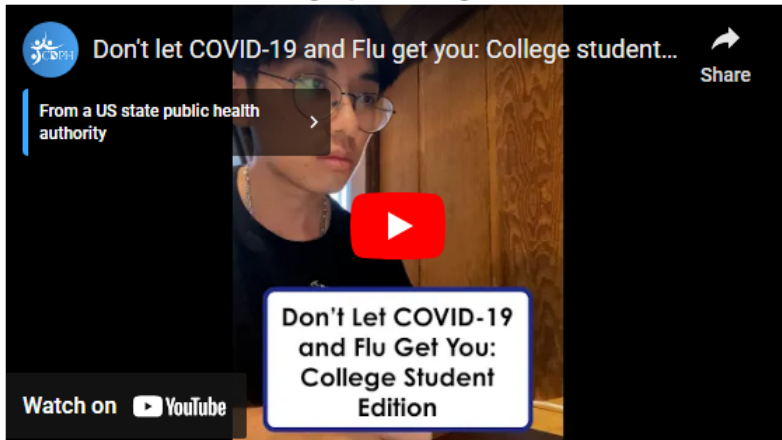
"6 Tips for Staying Healthy this Virus Season" Handout



Social Media



Don't Let COVID-19 and Flu get you: College Student Edition





Webinar: Respiratory Viruses in Older Californians



When: Wednesdays, January 10 & 24th, 2024

Time: 12-1PM, PT

To create a profile and register:

[Project ECHO Respiratory Viruses in Older Californians Webinar Series](#)



COVID-19 Therapeutics Resources

Type of Support

Description

Updated 11.27.23



Clinical Guidance

For general Therapeutics questions, please email: COVIDRxProviders@cdph.ca.gov
COVID-19 Treatment Warmline for SNF and LTCF staff: 1.866.268.4322 M-F 8am-5pm



General Information

[CDPH COVID-19 Treatments Webpage](#) (provides general information for healthcare providers, allocations, distribution and ordering, drug facts sheets, and additional resources)
[CDPH COVID-19 Treatments Job Aid](#) (questions and answers for the public on COVID-19 therapeutics)
[COVID-19 Therapeutics Best Practices Checklist](#) (testing, prescribing, dispensing, and more)
[Frequently Asked Questions document](#) for clinics, providers, and pharmacists



Locating Resources

Finding Providers and Test-to-Treat Sites

- [COVID-19 Therapeutics Locator](#) (arcgis.com)
- [Test-to-Treat](#) (hhs.gov)



LHJ Therapeutics SharePoint

Primary source for recorded webinars, slides, datasets and HPOP reporting information. (For access, email JEOCuser54@cdph.ca.gov)

- [Therapeutic Weekly Email Update](#) files (SharePoint)
- [CDPH Therapeutics HPOP Account Verification & Reporting](#) information



Questions

For general CDPH Therapeutics questions, please email COVIDRxProviders@cdph.ca.gov
For ordering, program inquiries, signing up new HPOP Accounts: please e-mail CDPHTherapeutics@cdph.ca.gov

COVID-19 Therapeutics Provider Warmline

The California COVID-19 Therapeutics Provider Warmline is available for healthcare professionals in California-based long-term care and skilled nursing facilities until June 30, 2024!



The National Clinician Consultation Center offers free and confidential consultation on COVID-19 testing and treatment. Healthcare professionals in California working in a long-term care or skilled nursing facility of any experience level can speak with our clinician or pharmacist.

No Protected Health Information (PHI) will be collected -- only basic provider contact and facility information.

Call 1-866-268-4322 (1-866-COVID-CA) or submit an [online request form](#). Hours: Monday through Friday, 9AM – 5PM. All voicemail messages will be returned on the next business day.

[Online Request Form](#)



Any Questions?

Thank you and Happy Holidays!

