



California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Infection Prevention Webinar

Wednesday, August 18, 2021

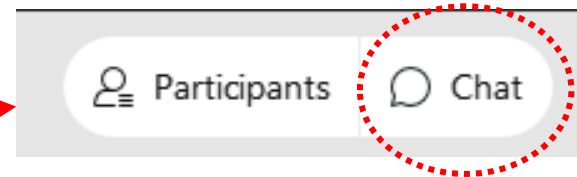
Upcoming Calls



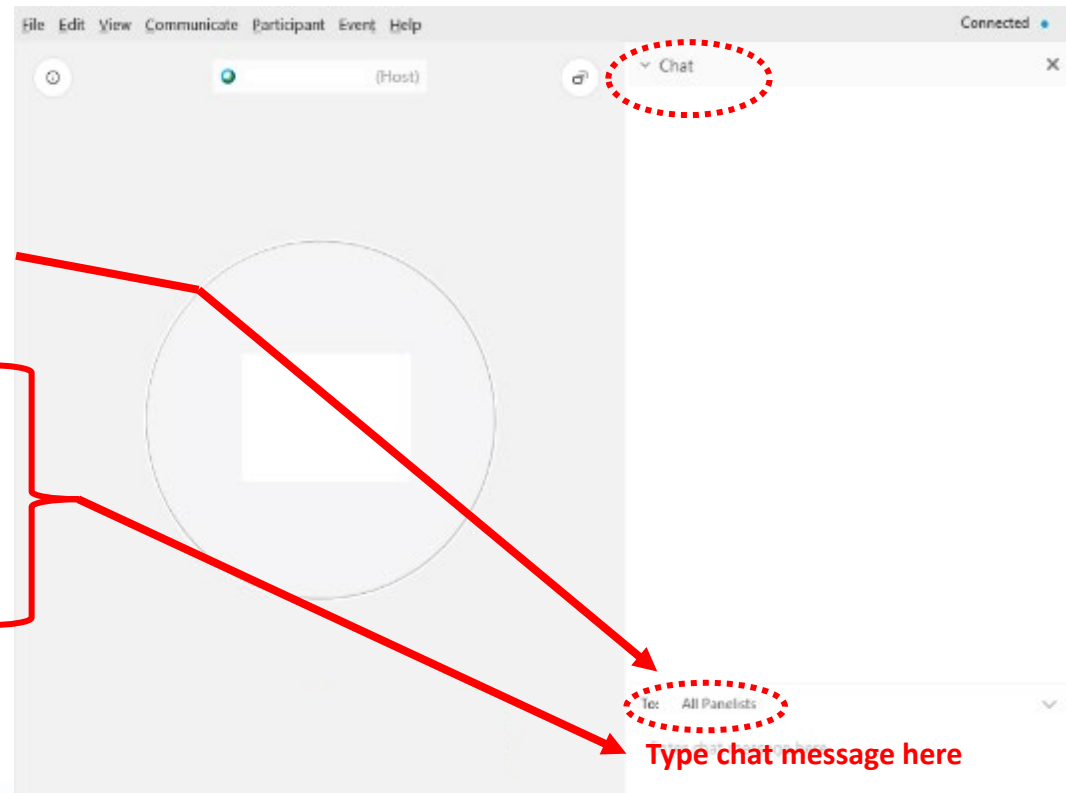
- CDPH Tuesday, 8 a.m., All-Facilities Phone Calls:
 - Call in: **1.844.721.7239**
 - Access code: **799 3227**
- CDPH Wednesday, 3 p.m., SNF Infection Prevention (IP) Webinars:
 - Register at: hsag.com/cdph-ip-webinars
 - Recordings, notes, and slides are posted at registration site
 - Trouble logging in: check link and date at registration site
- CDPH Thursday, 12 noon, SNF IP Phone Calls:
 - Dial-in: **1.877.226.8163**
 - Access Code: **513 711**

How to Find the Chat Button and Submit a Question

1. To submit a question, click on the **Chat Button** located in the bottom right corner of your Webex window.



2. The **Chat** panel will open on your right.



3. Indicate that you want to send a question to **All Panelists**.

4. Type your question in the box at the bottom of the panel.

5. Press **Enter** on your keyboard to submit your question.

To connect to the audio portion of the webinar, please have Webex call you.

Please Take 5 Seconds and Let Us Know



We want this call to be meaningful to you, so we need your input.

At the end of the webinar, you will be asked **one question** to determine if this call equipped your organization to manage COVID-19 and/or your infection prevention practices.

Agenda



- CDPH updates
- Testing Task Force updates
- Immunization Branch updates
- Healthcare-associated infections (HAI) updates
 - CDPH All Facilities Letter (AFL) 20-22.9
 - Preventing the spread of multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs)
- Increasing Vaccine Trust and Acceptance
- Q&A



CDPH Updates



Testing Taskforce Updates



Immunization Branch Updates



HAI Updates

CDPH AFL 20-22.9

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-22.aspx>

- CDPH requires skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) to develop and implement processes for:
 - Verifying vaccination status of all visitors seeking indoor visitation
 - Obtaining and tracking documentation of SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic test that occurred within 72 hours before each indoor visit for all visitors who are unvaccinated and incompletely vaccinated seeking indoor visitation.



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

August 12, 2021

AFL 20-22.9

TO: Skilled Nursing Facilities

SUBJECT: Guidance for Limiting the Transmission of COVID-19 in Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNFs)
(This AFL supersedes AFL 20-22.8)

Q: Do SNFs Have to Maintain Copies of Visitor Vaccine Cards and Proof of Negative Test Results?

- Copies of negative test results or vaccine cards are not necessary to keep on file. SNFs need to have a process to document that all visitors that enter the facility present their negative test result and proof of vaccination status.
 - “Facilities must have a plan in place for tracking verified visitor vaccination status. Documentation of the verification must be kept on file at the facility and made available upon request by CDPH or the local public health department for one year following the end of the public health emergency.”
 - “Visitors that are unvaccinated or incompletely vaccinated and are seeking indoor visitation must show documentation of a negative SARS-CoV-2 test where the specimen collection occurred within 72 hours before each visit and for which the test results are available at the time of entry to the facility.”



Q: Can Visitors Use Results of a Home Test Kit to Prove They Are Negative Before Entry to a SNF?

- No, home test kits are not acceptable.
- SNFs need to be able to verify test results that occur within 72 hours of the visit. Home tests are unsupervised, therefore cannot be used because it would be impossible to verify when the test was administered, who the test was done on.
- Home test kits can only be used if they are used on site at the SNF and someone can verify that the test results correspond to the person tested (i.e., SNF staff observed self-swabbing).

Residents Who Leave and Return to the Facility

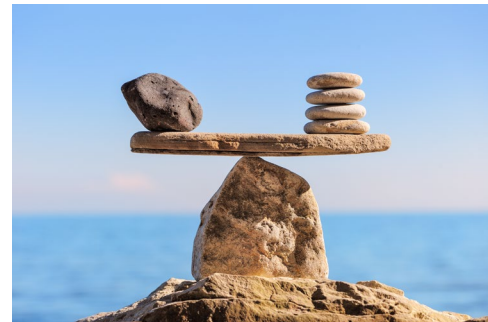
- Residents who have prolonged close contact (within 6 feet for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period) with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection while outside the facility should quarantine in the yellow-observation area for 14 days and be tested immediately, at 5–7 days after exposure and again prior to return to their usual room in the green zone, regardless of vaccination status.
- Fully vaccinated residents who leave for any duration (including hospital admissions) and return to the facility do not routinely need to quarantine and be tested upon return to the facility.
- Unvaccinated and incompletely vaccinated residents who leave the facility for < 24 hours and return to the facility should be tested 5–7 days after their return.
- Unvaccinated and incompletely vaccinated residents who leave the facility for > 24 hours should be quarantined in the yellow-observation area for 14 days and tested prior to return to the green zone.



Increasing Vaccine Trust and Acceptance

How to Cope with Stress and Build Resilience During the COVID-19 Pandemic

- Communicate with coworkers, supervisors, and employees about stress.
- Remind yourself that we are in an unusual situation with limited resources.
- Identify and accept those things which you do not have control over.
- Recognize that you are performing a crucial role in fighting this pandemic and that you are doing the best you can with the resources available.
- Keep a consistent daily routine when possible:
 - Adequate sleep, healthy meals, take breaks during your shift, exercise
- Take breaks from the news and social media
- Ask for help if you are misusing alcohol or drugs
- Engage in mindfulness techniques
 - Breathing exercises
 - Meditation



Associations and Organizations Supporting Vaccine Requirements

- LeadingAge Position on Vaccine Mandates in Long-term Care
<https://leadingage.org/sites/default/files/LeadingAge%20Statement%20on%20Vaccine%20Mandates%20for%20Healthcare%20Workers.pdf>
- The American Health Care Association (AHCA) and National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL) back mandatory COVID-19 vaccinations for healthcare workers
<https://www.mcknights.com/news/breaking-ahca-backs-mandatory-covid-19-vaccinations-for-healthcare-workers/>
- Require COVID-19 Vaccination of All Long-Term Care Workers: Experts Reach Consensus
<https://www.mcknightsseniorliving.com/home/news/require-covid-19-vaccination-of-all-long-term-care-workers-experts-reach-consensus/>

Multisociety Statement on COVID-19 Vaccination as a Condition of Employment for Healthcare Personnel

- Consensus statement by:
 - Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA)
 - The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine (AMDA)
 - The Association for Professionals in Epidemiology and Infection Control (APIC)
 - HIV Medicine Association (HIVMA)
 - Infectious Diseases Society of America (IDSA)
 - Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society (PIDS)
 - Society of Infectious Diseases Pharmacists (SIDP)
- Recommends COVID-19 vaccination should be a condition of employment for all healthcare personnel (HCP).
- Exemptions from this policy apply to those with medical contraindications and other federal or state law exemptions.

States, Hospitals and Health Systems Requiring COVID-19 Vaccination for Employees Is Growing

- **Mandatory Employee Vaccines—Coming to A State Near You?**
<https://www.littler.com/publication-press/publication/mandatory-employee-vaccines-coming-state-near-you>
- **Becker's Hospital Review: Hospitals, health systems mandating vaccines for workers**
https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/workforce/hospitals-health-systems-mandating-vaccines-for-workersjune17.html?origin=CEO&utm_source=CEO&utm_medium=email&utm_content=newsletter&oly_enc_id=7910G151508910
- **Hospital Vaccine Mandate Tracker**
<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/benjamin.renton/viz/HospitalVaccineMandateTracker/Dashboard1?publish=yes>
- **Companies mandating vaccines for all or some employees—from United Airlines to Facebook**
<https://www.nbcnews.com/business/business-news/here-are-companies-mandating-vaccines-all-or-some-employees-n1275808>
- **From offices to restaurants, companies are requiring vaccination**
<https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/28/business/companies-vaccine-mandate/index.html>

Biden-Harris Administration Takes Action to Protect America's Nursing Home Residents from COVID-19

- August 18, 2021 CMS Press Release
<https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-takes-additional-action-protect-americas-nursing-home-residents-covid-19>
- CMS, in collaboration with the CDC, are developing an emergency regulation requiring staff vaccinations within nursing homes.
- CMS expects nursing home operators to act in the best interest of residents and their staff by complying with these new rules, which the Agency expects to issue in September 2021.
- CMS will continue to analyze vaccination data for residents and staff from the CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) data as an additional method of compliance monitoring, as well as deploy the Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs) to educate and engage nursing homes with low rates of vaccinations.

Vaccines as a Condition of Employment Is Not New

- *Mandatory employee vaccination as a strategy for early and comprehensive health care personnel immunization coverage: Experience from 10 influenza season*
[https://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553\(20\)30042-0/fulltext](https://www.ajicjournal.org/article/S0196-6553(20)30042-0/fulltext)
 - Requiring vaccination led to sustained increases in staff vaccination coverage at academic medical centers and community hospitals. The mandatory policy also appeared to encourage earlier vaccination.
- *Association of State Laws With Influenza Vaccination of Hospital Personnel* <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31003802/>
 - Eighteen states had one or more HCP influenza vaccination-related laws.
 - State laws moderate the effect of facility-level vaccination mandates and may help increase HCP influenza vaccination coverage in facilities with or without vaccination requirements.

Impact of Mandatory Vaccination of Healthcare Personnel on Rates of Influenza and Other Viral Respiratory Pathogens

The Society for
Healthcare
Epidemiology of
America



Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology, (2021), 1–5;
doi: 10.1017/ice.2021.324

- Published by Cambridge University Press: August 5, 2021
- Examined the affect of mandatory influenza vaccination policies among HCP working in outpatient settings.
- **Setting:** Four Veteran’s Affairs (VA) health systems and three non-VA medical centers.
- **Results:** Influenza vaccination was associated with a decreased risk of influenza, but an increased risk of other respiratory viral infections.
- **Conclusion:** Our fitted regression models suggest that if influenza vaccination rates in clinics where vaccination was not mandated had equalled those where vaccine was mandated, HCP influenza infections would have been reduced by 52.1%.

Will Requiring Vaccination Lead to Staff Shortages?

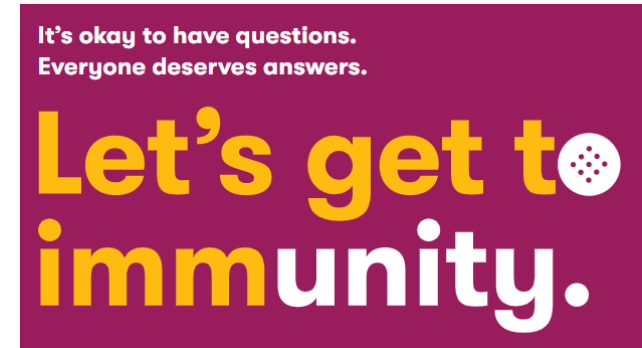
Nursing home to workers: Get your vaccine or lose your job

By Bernard Condon and Matt Sedensky, August 4, 2021

- Canterbury Court, Georgia: 10 of 180 workers quit
- Jewish Home Family, New Jersey: 5 of 527 workers quit
- Westminister Village, Illinois: 2 of 250 workers quit
- Lambeth House, Louisiana: 10 of 200 workers quit
- Hanceville Nursing & Rehab Center, Alabama: 6 of 260 workers quit

More Resources!

- Let's get to immunity.
<https://www.vaccinateall58.com/>
- [GreaterthanCOVID.org](https://www.greaterthanCOVID.org)
- THE CONVERSATION: Between Us, About Us—A New Campaign By Black Health Care Workers for Black People about the COVID-19 Vaccines
 - W. Kamau Bell Joins Black Doctors, Nurses and Researchers to Dispel Misinformation and Provide Accessible Facts in this Video Series
 - <https://www.greaterthancovid.org/theconversation/black-community/>



Religious Exemptions

- Vaccination without Litigation—Addressing Religious Objections to Hospital Influenza-Vaccination Mandates, March 1, 2018
<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1716147>
- Interview with Dr. Douglas Opel on legal issues surrounding the enforcement of influenza-vaccination requirements for HCP
<https://www.nejm.org/action/showMediaPlayer?doi=10.1056%2FNEJMdo002458&aid=10.1056%2FNEJMp1716147&area=>
- Use of a comprehensive program to review religious and personal seasonal influenza vaccination exemption requests by healthcare personnel
<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/infection-control-and-hospital-epidemiology/article/abs/use-of-a-comprehensive-program-to-review-religious-and-personal-seasonal-influenza-vaccination-exemption-requests-by-healthcare-personnel/23118DEE41A88D0132DDB723712D8EBC>
- Prof. Reiss Explains the COVID-19 Vaccine in New Videos
<https://www.uchastings.edu/2021/01/15/reiss-covid-vaccine/>

California Association of Long-Term Care Medicine (CALTCM) Vaccine Videos

- <https://www.caltcm.org/covid-19-vaccine>

COVID-19 Vaccine Webinars

COVID-19 Vaccine: Answers to Your Questions:

A Presentation for Staff and Residents in Post-Acute and Long-Term Care

Watch the Recording Now

COVID-19 Vaccine Implementation in Nursing Homes:

Increasing Vaccine Confidence: A Guide for Facility Leadership

Watch the Recording Now

Register for Vaccine Trust “Quickinar”

- **The Moveable Middle—Earning Trust When Staff Feel Unempowered**
 - Thursday, August 19, 2021 | 10:30 a.m.–11:00 a.m.
 - Noah Marco, M.D.
Chief Medical Officer
Los Angeles Jewish Home



Register for the entire “quickinar” series at:

https://www.hsag.com/en/covid-19/vaccine-resources/#Full_Speed_Ahead_COVID_19_Vaccination_Recognition_Program

Questions?





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