



California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Infection Prevention Webinar

Wednesday, December 8, 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**

December Holiday Schedule



CDPH Tuesday, 8 a.m., All-Facilities Phone Calls:

- Calls will continue on December 14, 21, and 28.

CDPH Wednesday, 3 p.m., SNF Infection Prevention (IP) Webinars:

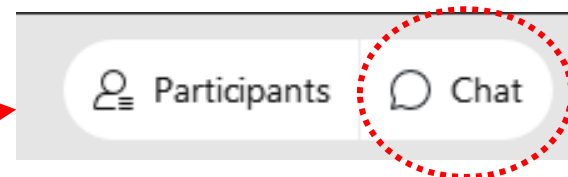
- December 15 Webinar Registration Link: hsag.com/cdph-ip-webinars
- December 22: **Cancelled**
- December 29: **Cancelled**

CDPH Thursday, 12 noon, SNF IP Phone Calls:

- December 16: Dial-in: 1.877.226.8163; Access Code: 513 711
- December 23: **Cancelled**
- December 30: **Cancelled**

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.

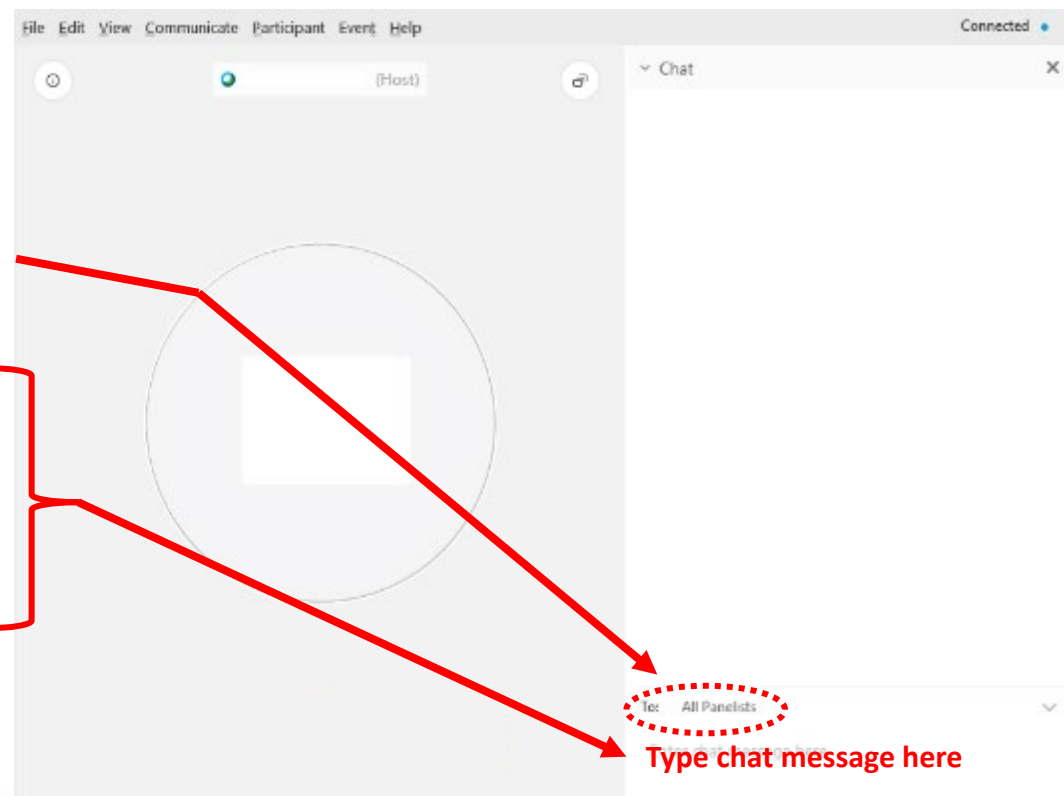


2. The **Chat** panel will open on your right.

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
- Healthcare-Acquired Infection (HAI) Updates
- Q&A



CDPH Updates



HAI Updates

National Influenza Vaccination Week

- It's National Influenza Vaccination Week.
- Remind your colleagues, family and friends to get their flu vaccine this season.
- Both COVID-19 and flu can cause severe illness and complications, especially for high-risk groups.
- In addition to wearing masks, getting the flu and COVID-19 vaccines are simple ways to protect yourself, your family, and your residents and staff.
- Visit cdph.ca.gov/fightflu for more information.



NEW—CDPH AFL 21-49 (December 8, 2021)

- AFL 21-49: COVID-19 Infection Control Recommendations during the 2021 Holiday Season
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-21-49.aspx>
- Provides COVID-19 infection control recommendations during holiday celebrations for residents, families, and facilities:
 - Guidance for private gatherings
 - Resident testing and placement after returning to the facility
 - Communal activities in facilities



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

December 8, 2021

TO: Long-Term Care Facilities

SUBJECT: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Infection Control Recommendations during the 2021 Holiday Season

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



GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor

AFL 21-49

CDPH AFL 21-49: Holiday Season Guidance

- During the 2021 holiday season, residents may leave their facilities to celebrate with their families and friends but should be educated about potential risks of public settings and reminded to avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces.
- People at higher risk of severe illness or death from COVID-19 should consider not attending any gatherings outside the facility.
- If a resident is considering leaving the facility and attending an in-person gathering, residents and families should review the following resources:
 - [CDPH Tips for Protecting Yourself and Others this Holiday Season](#)
 - [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\) Holiday Celebrations](#)
 - [CDC Small and Large Gatherings](#)
 - [CDC Travel](#)
 - [CDC's Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People](#)

Factors to Consider to Protect Residents

1. **Community levels of COVID-19:** <https://covid19.ca.gov/state-dashboard/>
2. **Increase your protection:** Activate *CA Notify* smartphone application (<https://canotify.ca.gov/>) to be notified of potential exposures.
3. **Location of gathering:** Outdoor gatherings are safer.
4. **Duration of gathering:** Shorter gatherings are safer.
5. **Number or people at gathering:** Smaller gatherings are safer.
6. **Locations that attendees are traveling from.**
7. **Preventative measures at the gathering:** distancing, masks, hand hygiene.
8. **Vaccination and booster dose status of attendees.**

Communal Dining during the Holiday Season

- Facilities may hold communal holiday activities and dining while adhering to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention.
- Fully vaccinated residents not in isolation or quarantine may eat in the same room without face masks or physical distancing.
 - If any unvaccinated residents are dining in a communal area:
 - All residents should use source control when not eating or drinking.
 - Residents who are not fully vaccinated should keep at least six feet distance from others (e.g., limited number of people at each table and with at least six feet between each person).

Communal Activities during the Holiday Season

- Fully vaccinated residents not in isolation or quarantine may participate in group/social activities together without face masks or physical distancing.
 - If any residents who are not fully vaccinated are present:
 - All participants in the group activity should wear face masks for source control, and
 - Unvaccinated residents should keep at least six feet distance from others.
- Encourage as many of these activities to occur outdoors when feasible, especially when eating or drinking without face coverings.

Residents Who Leave and Return to the Facility

- Upon return from holiday celebrations, facilities should screen residents for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.
- Regardless of vaccination status, residents who have prolonged close contact with someone with SARS-CoV-2 while outside the facility should quarantine for 14 days and be tested at five to seven days after exposure, and again prior to return to their usual room in the green zone.
- Fully vaccinated residents who leave for any duration do not routinely need to quarantine and be tested upon return to the facility.
- Residents who are not fully vaccinated who leave the facility for:
 - Less than 24 hours and return to the facility should be tested five to seven days after their return.
 - More than 24 hours should be quarantined in the yellow-observation area for 14 days and tested prior to return to their usual room.

Visitation Guidance Reminders

- CDPH is still reviewing CMS QSO-20-39 and will be updating AFL 20-22.9 <https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-20-22.aspx>
- For now, continue to follow the guidance in CDPH AFL 20-22.9.
- CDPH encourages nursing homes to expand visitation hours and the length of visits to be as accommodating as possible to visitors.
- Visits should be conducted in a manner that adheres to the core principles of COVID-19 infection prevention and does not increase risk to other residents.
- Nursing homes need to continue to:
 - ✓ Verify the vaccination status of visitors.
 - ✓ Screen visitors for symptoms of COVID-19 or exposure to COVID-19.
 - ✓ Ensure unvaccinated visitors have proof of a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours before entry.
 - ✓ Ensure visitors wear appropriate PPE during visits; visitors must also continue to mask and distance unless both the resident and visitor are fully vaccinated.

Omicron Variant

- 19 U.S. States have detected the Omicron variant.
- PCR and antigen tests should detect the Omicron variant.
- CDPH is still learning about how it spreads and infects individuals, vaccine effectiveness, as well as how it responds to treatment.
- Variants in California are tracked at:
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/COVID-Variants.aspx>
- CDPH Fact Sheet:
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Omicron-Variant-Fact-Sheet.aspx>

WHO: <https://www.who.int/en/activities/tracking-SARS-CoV-2-variants/>
CDC: www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s1126-B11-529-omicron.html

Key COVID-19 and Influenza Outbreak Prevention and Management Reminders

- Emergence of Omicron, recent upticks in SNF resident cases, and several large outbreaks with hospitalizations and deaths affecting both unvaccinated and fully vaccinated residents (but not yet received boosters):
 - Promote staff and resident vaccination, **including boosters.**
 - Actively screen staff and visitors for symptoms and recent exposure.
 - Enforce source control and personal protective equipment (PPE).
 - Optimize ventilation and ensure appropriate air flow.
 - Plan for using monoclonal antibodies for prophylaxis (e.g., during an outbreak) and treatment of residents with mild to moderate COVID-19 symptoms.

Mild to Moderate Symptoms in Older Adults

- National Institutes of Health (NIH) definition for clinical spectrum of SARS-CoV-2 Infection:
<https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/overview/clinical-spectrum/>
- **Mild Illness:** Individuals who have any of the various signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., fever, cough, sore throat, malaise, headache, muscle pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of taste and smell) but who do not have shortness of breath, dyspnea, or abnormal chest imaging.
- **Moderate Illness:** Individuals who show evidence of lower respiratory disease during clinical assessment or imaging and who have an oxygen saturation (SpO_2) $\geq 94\%$ on room air at sea level.

Monoclonal antibody treatment is recommended for long-term care residents with mild or moderate symptoms.

COVID-19 Symptomatology in Older Adults

General Adults

- Fever (78%)
- Any cough (57%)
- Fatigue (31%)
- Hyposmia (25%)
- Dyspnea (23%)
- Wheeze (17%)
- Headache (13%)
- Confusion/vertigo/
dizziness/arthralgias (11%)

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0234765>

Older Adults/Long-Term Care

- Tachypnea
- Tachycardia
- Malaise
- Muscle pains
- Blood pressure drop
- Dyspnea
- Low-grade fever
- Cough

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7211267/>

<https://agsjournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/jgs.16445>

Questions?





This material was prepared by Health Services Advisory Group (HSAG), a Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization (QIN-QIO) under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Views expressed in this material do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of CMS or HHS, and any reference to a specific product or entity herein does not constitute endorsement of that product or entity by CMS or HHS. Publication No. CA-12SOW-XC-12082021-01