



DISABILITY THRIVE INITIATIVE
Alternative Services and Supports for the IDD Community

COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION AND SUPPORT STRATEGIES

MARCH 24, 2021

WEBINAR TIPS AND INFORMATION PART 1



Para interpretación en español, haga clic en el ícono de globo blanco a continuación etiquetado como "Interpretación" y seleccione el canal en español



Visibility of ASL Interpreters is top priority. You may not always be able to see the presenter



This presentation will have closed captioning, which you can access using the button at the bottom of your screen



Webinar features vary by device and Zoom version

WEBINAR TIPS AND INFORMATION PART 2



The meeting is being recorded



You are on mute and your camera is not on



Submit all questions using Q&A feature below



“Chat” and “Hand Raise” features are off



Please use survey at the end of this session for feedback and suggestions

TODAY'S WEBINAR

- Partnering with Pharmacies
- Vaccine Benefits and Risks
- Vaccine Tiers and Accessing Vaccinations
- Post Vaccination Symptoms
- Supports and Services for Vaccination



PARTNERING FOR VACCINE ACCESS



Reyna Zavala
Program Director

—
**Easterseals Southern
California**



COVID-19 VACCINES: STEPS FOR SUCCESS



California Department of Social
Services
Community Care Licensing
Division
Adult and Senior Care Program

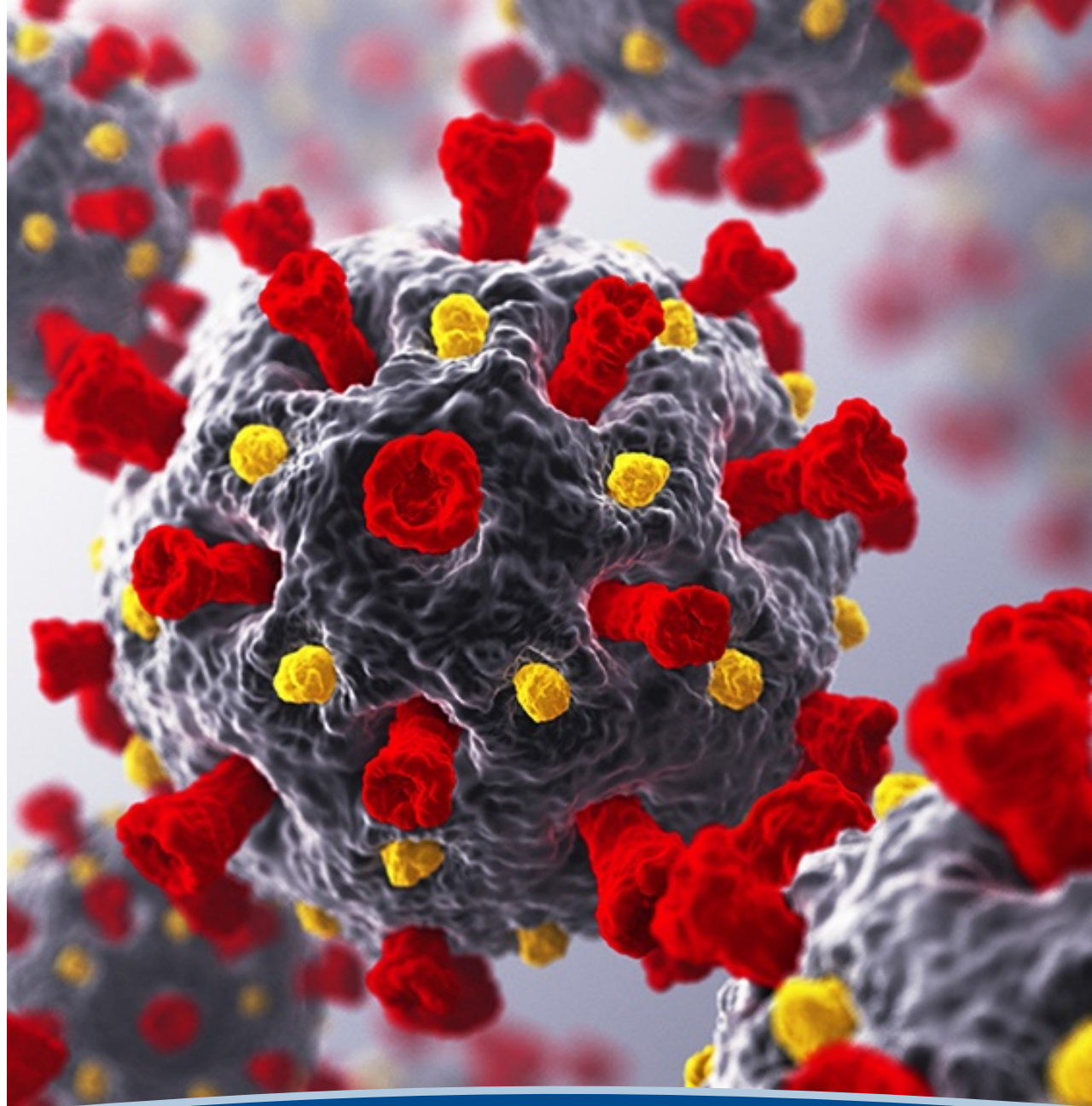


Vaccinate ALL 58

Together we can end the pandemic.



KIM JOHNSON
DIRECTOR



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES



Vicki Smith, PhD
Program Administrator
Adult and Senior
Care Program
Community Care Licensing



**Janice Hoffman,
PharmD, EdD, BCGP,**
President-Elect, CALTCM
Associate Professor, College of
Pharmacy
Western University of Health
Sciences



Josh Allen, RN
Registered Nurse
Allen Flores Consulting
Group



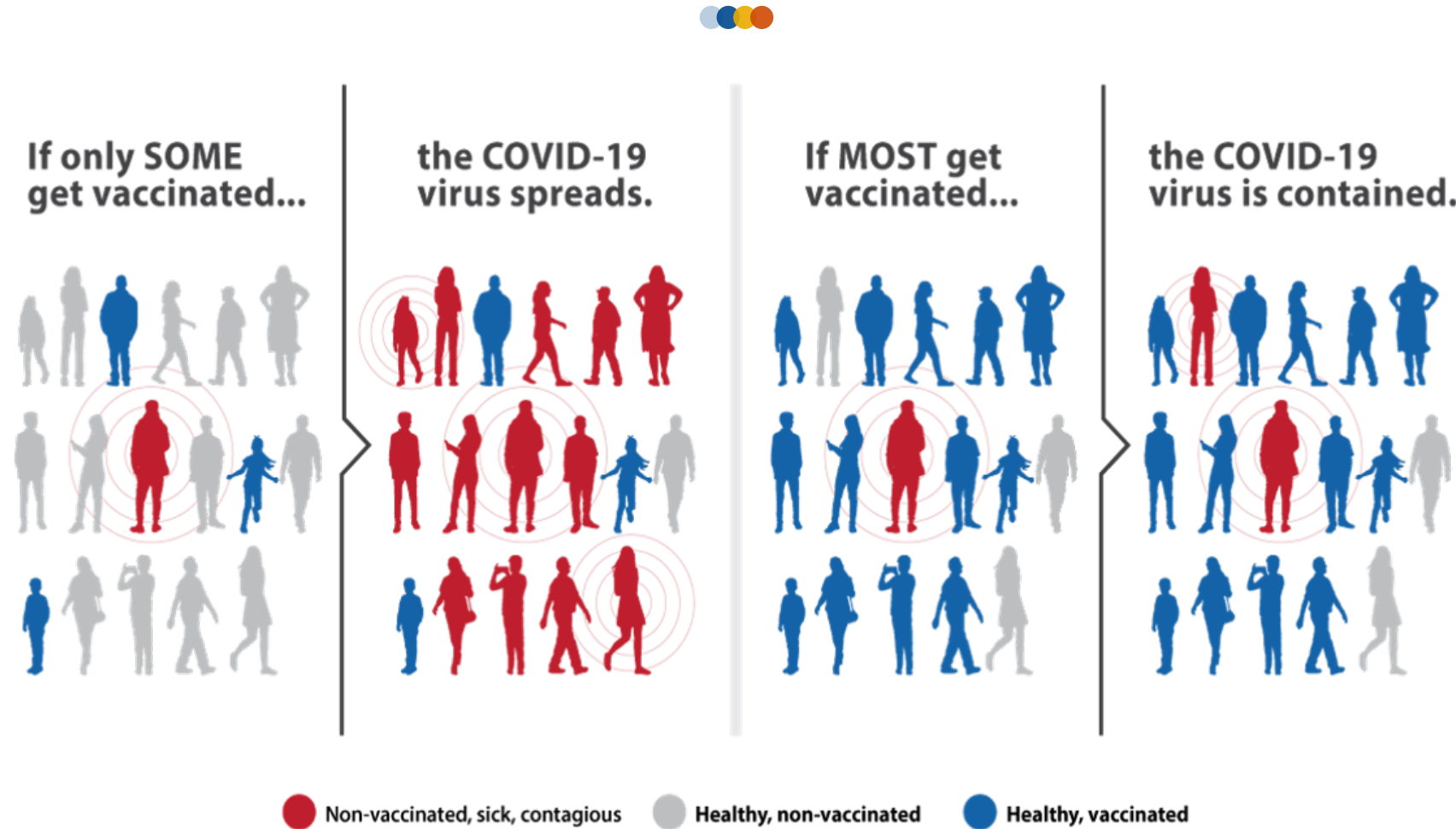
Claire Matsushita, M.S.W.
Assistant Program
Administrator
Adult & Senior Care Program
Community Care Licensing

IMPORTANT NOTES



- Current timeline for vaccination tiers, allocation and access.
- Explanation of vaccine hesitancy and readiness - getting the vaccine.
- Distinguishing between COVID-19 symptoms and post vaccine symptoms.
- Side effect monitoring plans.

WHY VACCINATION NUMBERS MATTER

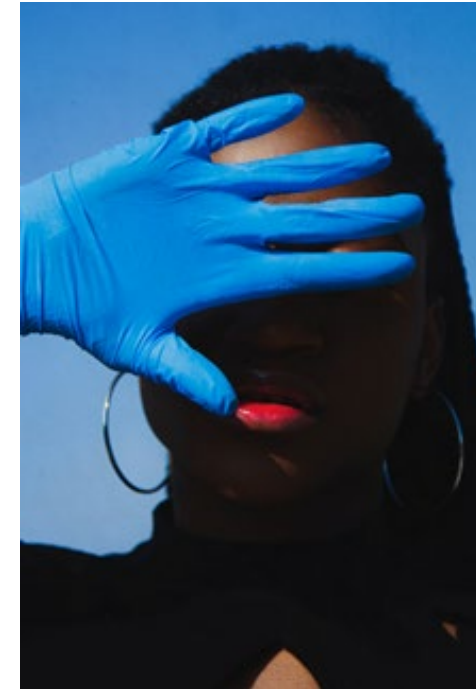


VACCINE HESITANCY



Those who are hesitant to receive the vaccine are more likely to be:

- Women
- Under 55
- From low-income backgrounds
- Non-college-educated
- Rural residents
- Black and Latino/a communities



REASONS FOR VACCINE HESITANCY



From CVS/ Omnicare study:

- Seems rushed/ too early
- Not sure if it's effective
- Don't trust it/ don't believe it's safe
- Nervous about it/ afraid of side effects or long-term effects
- Too much politics involved or too much propaganda



PROMOTING VACCINE CONFIDENCE



Respect. Honor. Value.

- Start by *LISTENING* to concerns and fears. Don't argue or defend.
- Provide written material on vaccine effectiveness and safety in multiple languages
- Promote positive testimonials from facility leaders, respected staff, other residents (with permission) and community members, etc.
- Schedule regular check-ins around time of vaccination with residents' loved ones/families for reassurance.
- Use good judgement when providing education. Avoid educating when unwanted or without asking first.

WHO IS GETTING VACCINATED NOW



Phase 1A

Now Vaccinating:

- Healthcare workers
- Long Term Care Residents



Phase 1B

Now Vaccinating:

- Individuals 65 and older
- People working in specific sectors:
 - Education and childcare
 - Emergency services
 - Food and agriculture

NEW GROUP FOR VACCINATION (1 OF 2)



Beginning March 15, healthcare providers may use their judgement to vaccinate certain people aged 16-64. These people must be at the very highest risk for serious illness and death from COVID-19 as a direct result of one or more of the following severe health conditions:



SEVERE HEALTH CONDITIONS



- **Cancer**, current with debilitated or immunocompromised state (weakened immune system)
- **Chronic kidney disease**, stage 4 or above
- **Chronic pulmonary disease**, oxygen dependent
- **Down syndrome**
- **Immunocompromised state** from **solid organ transplant**
- **Pregnancy**
- **Sickle cell disease**
- **Heart conditions**, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies (excludes hypertension)
- **Severe obesity** (Body Mass Index ≥ 40 kg/m²)
- **Type 2 diabetes mellitus** with hemoglobin A1c level greater than 7.5%

NEW GROUP FOR VACCINATION (2 OF 2)



A person with developmental or other severe high-risk disability may be vaccinated if one or more of the following applies:

- The individual is likely to develop severe life-threatening illness or die from COVID-19 infection
- Getting COVID-19 will limit the individual's ability to receive ongoing care or services vital to their well-being and survival
- Providing adequate and timely COVID care will be particularly challenging because of the individual's disability

DSS LETTER FOR IHSS RECIPIENTS



STATE OF CALIFORNIA—HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
744 P Street • Sacramento, CA 95814 • www.cdss.ca.gov



March 04, 2021

RECIPIENT NAME
ADDRESS
CITY, CA XXXXX

Draft Only

Dear IHSS Recipient,

You are receiving this letter because there have been changes made to California's vaccination plan. Beginning March 15, 2021, recipients of In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) aged 16-64 are eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccinations. Those over 64 years age are currently eligible to be vaccinated.

This letter certifies that you, as the addressee, are a recipient of In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) and meet the criteria. Therefore, you are eligible for vaccination beginning March 15, 2021, and as vaccine supply is available in your area.

If you need assistance from your provider to obtain a vaccination and you have authorized hours for Accompaniment to Medical Appointments, you can use those hours for this purpose. If you need accompaniment to Medical Appointments to assist with IHSS services or need additional hours in this area for your provider to help you get your vaccine, you can contact your county or use the enclosed form to request the needed time.

For the most current information about how to get vaccines and other COVID-19 related news, please go to <https://covid19.ca.gov/>.

Sincerely,

DEBBI THOMSON
Deputy Director

“...This letter certifies that you, as the addressee, are a recipient of In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) and meet the criteria. Therefore, you are eligible for vaccination beginning March 15, 2021, and as vaccine supply is available...”

OPTIONS FOR GETTING THE VACCINE



There are five main ways you may be able to find an appointment:

1. Health Care Provider
2. Pharmacy
3. Local Health Department
4. Community Pop-Up Clinic
5. Online or by Phone

On-line at www.myturn.ca.gov.

- The MyTurn website is accessible to people with disabilities and in eight languages: English, Spanish, simplified and traditional Chinese, Arabic, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Korean.

Calling the COVID-19 Hotline at:
1-833-422-4255 or 1-833-4CA-4ALL
(M-F 8AM-8PM, Sa-Su 8AM-5PM).

- The Hotline is accessible to people with disabilities and offers services in English and Spanish, with connections to interpretation services in more than 250 languages.

PREPARING FOR THE VACCINE



- Lead with compassion, assurance and education. Avoid shame and intimidation tactics.
- Include vaccinations in care planning for residents.
- Collect information that pharmacies need.
- Set up a process for tracking who will be vaccinated (if you are a provider serving multiple consumers)
- Make arrangements to take consent (assent) into account:
e.g., print Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) fact sheet.
- Please follow these guidelines:
 - Make sure you are not sick or feeling ill
 - Stay hydrated, and no alcohol the night before
 - Wear loose fitting clothing
 - Write down any questions you may want to ask



PREPARING FOR VACCINATION (PEOPLE WITH SEIZURES)



- Vaccination may trigger a seizure
- Be prepared with anti-seizure medications
 - Some clients may need pre-medication with Lorazepam orally
 - Others may need Diastat (rectal diazepam) after vaccination for treatment of seizures
- Work with a neurologist to **develop** a plan for each person with a seizure condition

VACCINE SIDE EFFECTS



Occur within the first 3 days of vaccination

- Day 1= Day of vaccination
- Should resolve within 1-2 days

More common and severe after the second dose and among people younger than 55 years old

Side effects are a positive sign! They indicate that the immune response is working!

MOST COMMON VACCINATION SIDE EFFECTS



In Younger People

- None
- Sore arm
- Fatigue
- Headaches
- Body aches
- Fever
- Stomach Upset

In Older People

- None
- Sore arm
- Fatigue
- Fevers
 - Short-lived mild to high
 - Fever = temperature of 100.0°F or higher
 - Staff with fevers should not work and should be evaluated

POST VACCINATION MONITORING



Make a side-effect monitoring plan

Check in and follow up with participants/caregivers

Why?


- To decide if symptoms are: vaccine side effects, COVID-19, or unclear (could be either)
- To avoid unnecessary testing or quarantine if they don't have COVID-19
- To keep people with COVID-19 from giving it to others

STAFFING PLAN



- Tell staff about side effects and how to handle them
- Develop a strategy to provide timely assessment of staff with symptoms
- Offer paid sick leave for staff with symptoms to remove barriers in reporting
- Have a back-up plan for staffing in case staff call in sick (especially after 2nd shot)

REPORT SIDE EFFECTS!



The screenshot shows the v-safe mobile app interface. At the top, it says "v-safe after vaccination health checker" with a logo of three blue and green arrows. Below this is a progress bar showing "0/3". The main text says "Hi Olivia, Let's start today's health check-in." followed by "How are you feeling today? *". There are three circular buttons with smiley faces: "Good" (green), "Fair" (yellow), and "Poor" (red). A large blue arrow points down with the text "Follow instructions to complete check-in." and a "Next >" button at the bottom. At the very bottom, a small disclaimer reads: "Your information in v-safe is protected by administrative, technical, and physical measures that safeguard the confidentiality, integrity, and privacy of personal information."



Use [V-safe](#) to report ANY signs and symptoms to the CDC

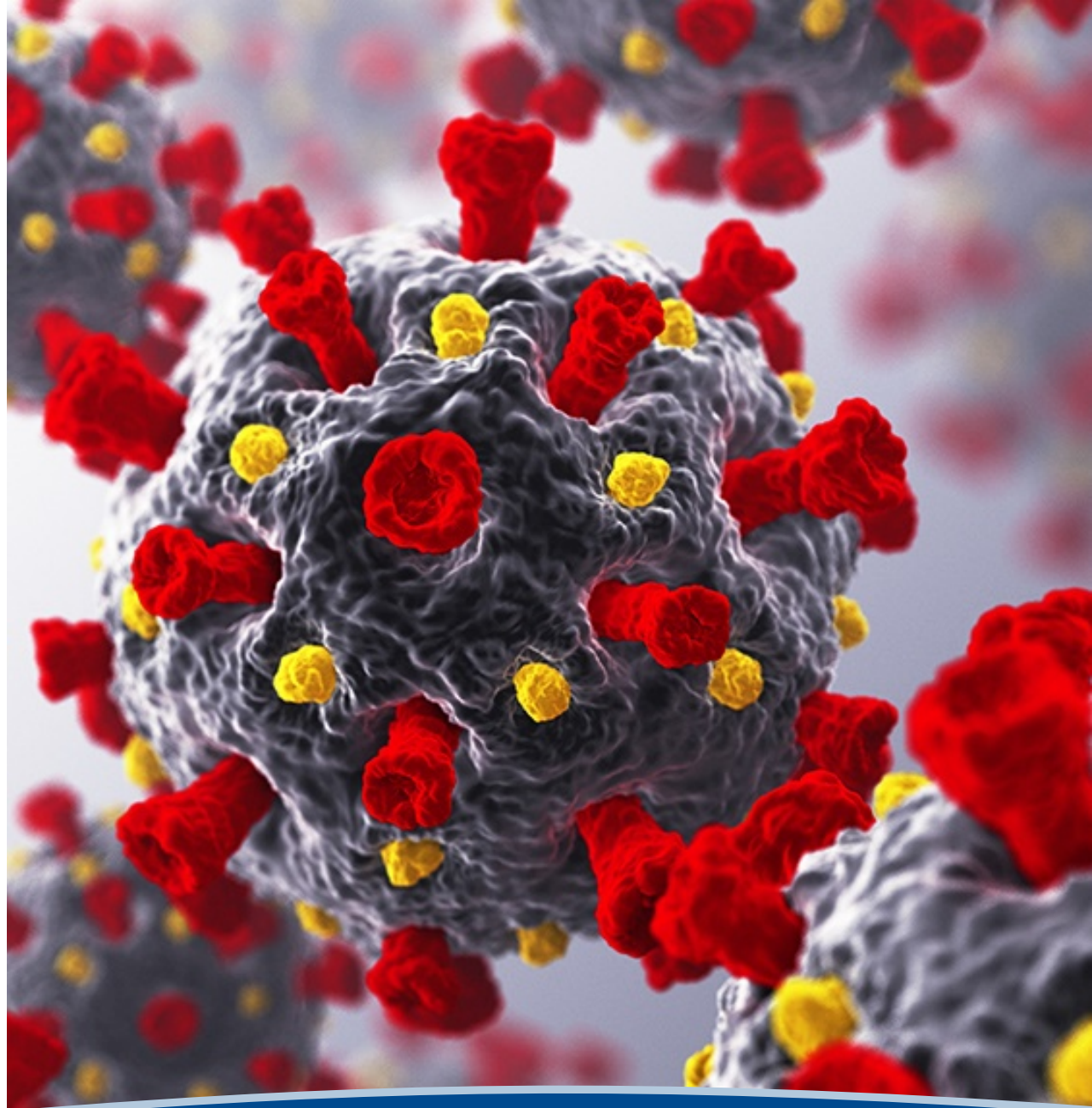
To sign up for v-safe, follow instructions on v-safe information sheet given during vaccination clinic

POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST = COVID-19



A positive COVID-19 test is
NOT from the vaccine

Only a person who has
COVID-19 will test positive for
COVID-19!



COVID-ONLY SYMPTOMS



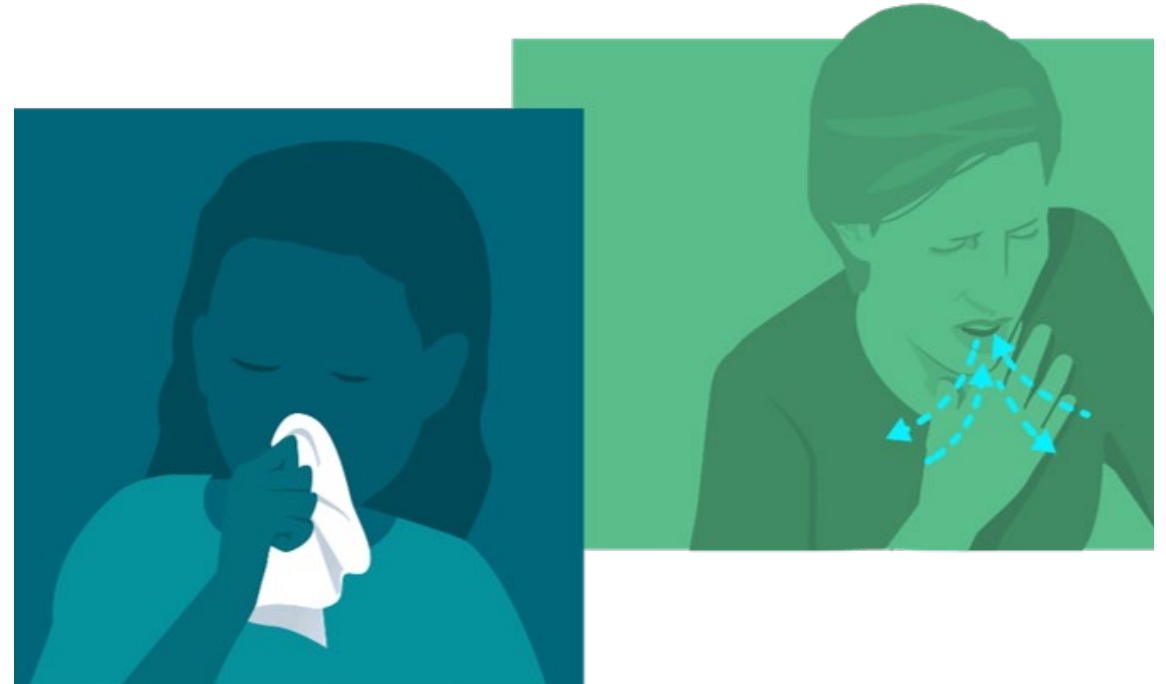
Cough, shortness of breath, runny nose, sore throat, loss of taste or smell

Follow usual COVID-19 protocol

- Isolate
- Full Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for contacts
- COVID-19 test

Staff:

- Cannot work
- Must get tested



IS IT COVID-19 OR A VACCINE SIDE EFFECT?



Fever, fatigue, headache, chills, muscle aches, joint aches
You can't tell at first!

Participants:

- Quarantine and monitor
 - Consider PPE and COVID-19 testing
- If symptoms are gone in 2 days
 - Resume normal activity once symptom free for 24 hours

Staff:

- Can work IF no fever, feel well enough, willing & no COVID-only symptoms

SIDE EFFECTS OR COVID-19?



Vaccine ONLY

Local pain swelling,
allergic reaction
(within minutes)



COVID-19 ONLY

Cough, shortness of
breath, runny nose,
sore throat, loss of
taste or smell



Both

Fever, fatigue,
headache, chills,
muscle aches, joint
aches

RESOURCES



After vaccine questions:

CDC: [Long-Term Care Facility Vaccination Toolkit](#), [Frequently asked questions after vaccination](#)

After vaccine symptoms:

CDC: [staff who are symptomatic](#), [managing residents who are symptomatic](#)

Promoting vaccine confidence:

CDC: [Communications Toolkit](#), [Vaccine FAQs](#)

AMDA: [COVID-19 Vaccine Education Toolkit](#)

State of California: [Vaccinate All 58 Toolkit](#)

Omnicare CVS: [Understanding and Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy](#)

Video on vaccine safety: [CVS Health Live: Preparing for the COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR VACCINATION



Jordan Lindsey
Executive Director
—
**The Arc of
California**



SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR VACCINATION ALTERNATIVE SERVICES



DDS Directive, August 31, 2020

- "Alternative Nonresidential Services Model (Alternative Services)
Providers of nonresidential services, as defined in Title 17 section 54302(a)(49), may utilize Alternative Services, if needed, to meet a consumer's service needs. When providing services to consumers during the COVID-19 State of Emergency, providers shall be creative, resourceful and make modifications as needed to how existing services are delivered. Any Alternative Services used shall be responsive to each consumer's current needs and be mindful of the importance of safety during the COVID-19 State of Emergency, including compliance with applicable state and local health orders and licensing requirements. Details on implementation of Alternative Services are in Section V of this Directive."

ELIGIBLE ALTERNATIVE SERVICES (1 OF 2)



Alternative Services shall include the following:

- a. Supports related to minimizing the exposure to or impact of COVID-19 on the consumer;
- b. Completion of an individual assessment of skills, preferences, and service needs for the consumer;
- c. Completion of an individualized service plan to provide needed services for the consumer;
- d. Alternative services delivered to the consumer via telephone, video or other electronic communication;
- e. Delivery of supplies or other items to the consumer's home needed to provide services or supports;
- f. Use of self-guided training and educational materials supplied to the consumer by the provider intended to support the consumer's service;
- g. Skills training to individuals within the consumer's household who are specifically designated to support the consumer;
- h. Alternative services provided in-person at the consumer's home, in a community setting, or at the provider's facility, modified to comply with the most protective state or local COVID-19 safety guidelines in effect at the time the service is to be delivered;
 - Provider staff must be trained on COVID-19 safety precautions prior to the delivery of in-person services.
- i. Supports for transition to the Self-Determination Program; and
- j. Other modifications to nonresidential services that are approved by the consumer that further or achieve his or her service needs

ELIGIBLE ALTERNATIVE SERVICES (2 OF 2)



Alternative Services shall include the following:

- a. Supports related to minimizing the exposure to or impact of COVID-19 on the consumer;
- d. Alternative services delivered to the consumer via telephone, video or other electronic communication;

ELIGIBLE ALTERNATIVE SERVICES CONTINUED

(1 OF 3)



Provider staff should receive training necessary for Alternative Services. This training may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- a. COVID-19 safety precautions for both staff and the consumer;
- b. Delivering services using the person-centered planning and approach criteria set forth in Title 42, Code of Federal Regulations section 441.540;
- c. Informed decision-making so that consumers can understand what choices they have in receiving services and understand the benefits, risks and responsibilities associated with the service choices available to them;
- d. Self-Determination Program requirements;
- e. Developing written materials using plain language that can be readily understood by consumers;
- f. Using alternative communication technology, tools or methods to deliver services;
- g. Delivering services in a manner accommodating the cultural and linguistic needs of the consumer; or
- h. Use of technology utilized to deliver services.

ELIGIBLE ALTERNATIVE SERVICES CONTINUED

(2 OF 3)



Provider staff should receive training necessary for Alternative Services. This training may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- a. COVID-19 safety precautions for both staff and the consumer;
- c. Informed decision-making so that consumers can understand what choices they have in receiving services and understand the benefits, risks and responsibilities associated with the service choices available to them;

ELIGIBLE ALTERNATIVE SERVICES CONTINUED

(3 OF 3)



Provider staff should receive training necessary for Alternative Services. This training may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- e. Developing written materials using plain language that can be readily understood by consumers;
- g. Delivering services in a manner accommodating the cultural and linguistic needs of the consumer;

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)



FAQs for DDS Directive 01-083120: Alternative Nonresidential Services (Alternative Services)

Q12. Can Alternative Services include assistance with accessing the COVID-19 vaccine? (New 03/22/21)

A12. Yes. Assistance could include providing information about the vaccine, eligibility for vaccination, where to obtain a vaccine, and coordinating transportation

[DDS Alternative Services FAQs](https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/AlternativeServicesFAQs_03222021.pdf)

(https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/AlternativeServicesFAQs_03222021.pdf)

COVID-19 VACCINATION APPOINTMENT RIDE OPTIONS

For People with Developmental Disabilities

As of March 15, individuals with developmental disabilities age 16 years and older, are now eligible for COVID-19 vaccinations at County vaccination sites. Need a ride to your vaccination appointment? See below for options available to you.



Home of Guiding Hands

Provides free transit rides to and from Super Vaccination stations, hospitals, and other community immunization locations. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination appointment is required. Customers can call **(619) 938-3060** to schedule a ride to drop-off locations only (not drive through).



Facilitating Access to Coordinated Transportation (FACT)

Provides rides to and from vaccination sites for a small fee. Available for walk through sites only. Drop-off and pick-up rides must be scheduled separately. Call (888) 924-3228 to schedule a ride.

DON'T FORGET:



Photo ID



Appointment Confirmation



Additional Documentation

BE COVIDSAFE✓

For more information on COVID-19 vaccines, visit:

coronavirus-sd.com/vaccine



TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS



Home of Guiding Hands

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Facilitating Access to Coordinated Transportation (FACT)

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VACCINATION EDUCATION & ACCESS



OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT USING ALTERNATIVE SERVICES

- Transportation to and from Vaccine Clinics
- Educational Resources About Vaccines
- Supported Decision Making
- Translation of Vaccine Information
- Clinic Site
- ?

DEPT. OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES LETTERS



1. Direct Service Employees

[COVID-19 Vaccine Phase 1A Letter Direct Service Employees](#)

https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/COVID-19VaccinePhase1ALetter_DirectServiceEmployees_01132021.pdf

2. Family Caregivers of People with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities

[COVID-19 Vaccine Phase 1A Letter Family Members](#)

https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/COVID-19VaccinePhase1ALetter_FamilyMembers_01132021.pdf

3. Regional Center Employees

[COVID-19 Vaccine Phase 1A Letter RC Employees](#)

https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/COVID-19VaccinePhase1ALetter_RCEmployees_01132021.pdf

4. Provider Bulletin Updating Vaccination Tiers (updated 2/12/21)

[COVID-19 Provider Bulletin Feb. 12 2021](#)

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Provider-Bulletin-2-12-21.aspx>

REGIONAL CENTER CLIENT OUTREACH



Dept. of Developmental Services (DDS) letter 3/9/21 directs Regional Centers to:

1. Provide personalized letters re: eligibility to be vaccinated
2. Conduct outreach to consumer ages 16 and over re: where to get vaccine; how to schedule appointment; options for assistance
3. Those most at-risk should be prioritized

[DDS Letter to Regional Center](https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/DDSDirective_ContactingConsumers_VaccineEligibility_03092021.pdf)

(https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/DDSDirective_ContactingConsumers_VaccineEligibility_03092021.pdf)

AFTER VACCINATION GUIDANCE



Center for Disease Control (CDC) Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People

English: [Fully Vaccinated Guidance](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html)

(<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>)

Spanish: [Recomendacion para las personas completamente vacunadas](https://espanol.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html)

(<https://espanol.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html>)

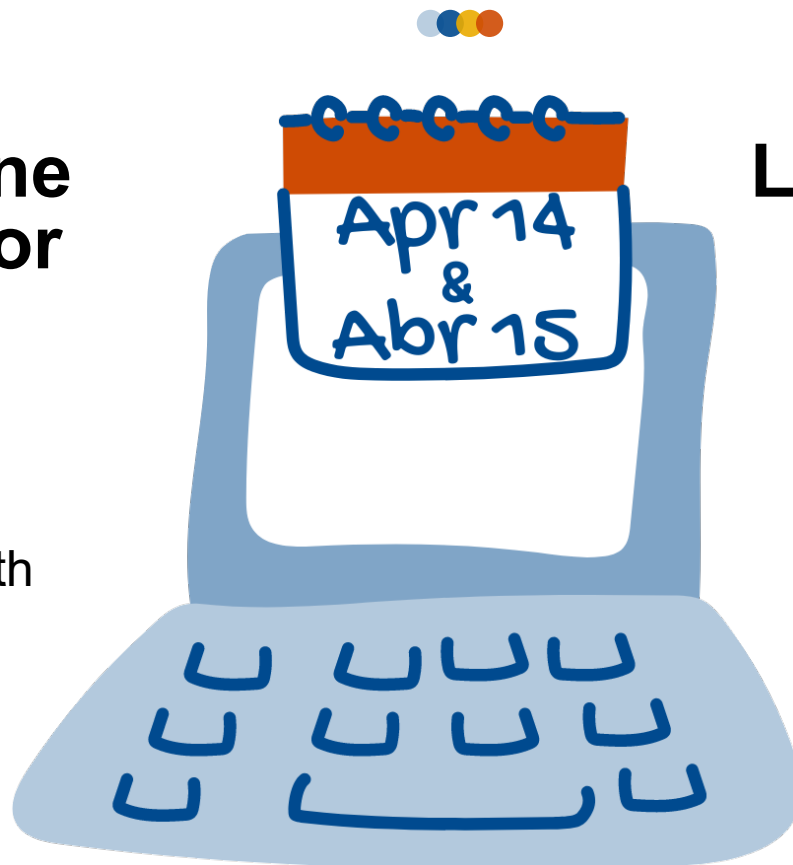
JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT WEBINARS

**The COVID-19 Vaccine
and What It Means for
the Disability
Community**

Wednesday, April 14th

3:00 – 4:15 pm

Webinar.DisabilityThriveInitiative.org



**La vacuna COVID-19 y lo
que significa para la
comunidad de
discapacidades**

Jueves, 15 de abril

3:00 – 4:15 pm

SeminarioWeb.DisabilityThriveInitiative.org

DISABILITY THRIVE INITIATIVE RESOURCES



Lunch and Learn

- Continue this conversation in a live, interactive session!
- Friday, March 26th
- 12:00 noon – 1:00 pm
- Register now:
LunchAndLearn.DisabilityThriveInitiative.org



Access the Resource Library and keep up with us:

DisabilityThriveInitiative.org

Sign up for email updates about the latest:

SignUp.DisabilityThriveInitiative.org

Request Technical Assistance

DisabilityThriveInitiative.ZenDesk.com

COVID-19 EDUCATIONAL TOOLKITS

California Department of Health

[Let's Get to Immunity Toolkit \(ca.gov\)](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Let%27s-Get-to-ImmUnity-Toolkit.aspx)

(<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Let%27s-Get-to-ImmUnity-Toolkit.aspx>)

California Foundation for Independent Living Centers

English: [CFILC and DOnetwork's COVID-19 Disability Community Advocacy and Information Toolkit](https://cfilc.org/issues/issues.php?id=77)

(<https://cfilc.org/issues/issues.php?id=77>)

espanol: [CFILC y DOnetwork COVID-19 Kit con información de COVID-19 para comunidades de personas discapacitadas](https://cfilc.org/issues/issues.php?id=77)

(<https://cfilc.org/issues/issues.php?id=77>)

PLAIN LANGUAGE RESOURCES



SARTAC – Self Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center

[COVID-19 Vaccine Information in Plain Language](https://selfadvocacyinfo.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/COVID-19-Vaccine-Information-in-Plain-Language.pdf)

(<https://selfadvocacyinfo.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/COVID-19-Vaccine-Information-in-Plain-Language.pdf>)

State Council on Developmental Disabilities

[Plain Language COVID Vaccine Information](https://scdd.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2021/01/COVID-Vaccine-Info.pdf)

(<https://scdd.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/33/2021/01/COVID-Vaccine-Info.pdf>)

INFORMATIONAL VIDEOS



Tyler Perry Special

[COVID-19 Vaccine And The Black Community](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M56q6TIJ890)

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M56q6TIJ890>)

El Dr. Cuauhtémoc Ruiz-Matus, jefe de inmunización integral de la familia en la Organización Mundial de la Salud y en la Organización Panamericana de la Salud

[Vacunas contra la COVID-19: seguras y efectivas](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6u5JOXjCLU)

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6u5JOXjCLU>)

THANK YOU!



DISABILITY THRIVE INITIATIVE
Alternative Services and Supports for the IDD Community

We look forward to seeing you at future webinars.

Find this webinar and other resources at:

DisabilityThriveInitiative.org

Info@DisabilityThriveInitiative.org | (916) 238-8811