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Provider Alert: COVID Vaccination for Phase 1a

The Public Health Department has been charged with ensuring that the COVID-19 vaccine is distributed rapidly, safely and equitably. Vaccines are produced by a select group of manufacturers and distribution is tightly controlled.

Until the vaccine supply meets the demand, we are working under a framework established by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), which is based on the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) Phased Allocation guidance. This guidance includes strategies designed to protect those most at risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19 and preserving the functioning of society. Within that framework, the Public Health Department and our partners operationalize vaccine dispensing in a manner that is fair, equitable and does the most good for the most people.

The Public Health Department is allocating vaccine weekly to providers that have met criteria and enrolled in COVIDReadi. Priority is given to providers that can most rapidly reach large numbers in the Phase 1a populations, and are ready to comply with prioritization, safe storage, screening, distribution, and data reporting as required by CDPH and the CDC. These providers are vaccinating in Tier 1 thru 3 of Phase 1a as described in this CDPH guidance:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/CDPH-Allocation-Guidelines-for-COVID-19-Vaccine-During-Phase-1A-Recommendations.aspx>

- *Persons at risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2 through their work in any role in direct health care or long-term care settings.*
 - *This population includes persons at direct risk of exposure in their non-clinical roles, such as, but not limited to, environmental services, patient transport, or interpretation.*
- *Residents of skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, and similar long-term care settings for older or medically vulnerable individuals.*

To assure access of all eligible persons in Phase 1a the PHD is working to:

- Encourage providers who are enrolled in COVIDReadi to identify and vaccinate their eligible patients
- Begin weekly Point of Dispensing sites (PODs) in Santa Maria, Lompoc, and Santa Barbara in January that will serve population in prioritized order Tiers 1-3. Tier 1 of Phase 1a includes hospitals, EMS providers, long term care residents and staff, and dialysis staff.

Organizations and entities that are in one of the tiers described in the CDPH guidance listed below can access the PHD PODs for themselves and their staff by completing the information requested in this survey link:

<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/edbc494dd2814534818b59b4ec57dab6>

- Appointments to sign up online for Tier 2 and 3 will be sent via email, after Tier 1 is completed, or as space is available.
- A list of your eligible staff and their role will be requested. Photo identification will be required. Assistance to register will be provided for persons who cannot access the online registration process.

Questions can be directed to this email: VaxProvider@sbcphd.org

Tier 1

- Acute care, psychiatric and correctional facility hospitals
- Skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, and similar settings for older or medically vulnerable individuals
- Also, in concordance with ACIP, residents in these settings
- Paramedics, EMTs and others providing emergency medical services
- Dialysis centers

Tier 2

- Intermediate care facilities for persons who need non-continuous nursing supervision and supportive care
- Home health care and in-home supportive services
- Community health workers, including promotoras
- Public health field staff
- Primary Care clinics, including Federally Qualified Health Centers, Rural Health Centers, correctional facility clinics, and urgent care clinics

Tier 3

Other settings and health care workers, including

- Specialty clinics
- Laboratory workers
- Dental and other oral health clinics
- Pharmacy staff not working in settings at higher tiers