



# Vaccinations for COVID-19 and Other State Updates

COMMUNITY MEETING

REGIONAL CENTER IF THE EAST BAY

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2021

# Current Status of COVID-19 Case in Our Counties

- ▶ We have seen a steady decline in cases across our counties including declines in hospitalizations .
- ▶ This is mirrored in the population of people served by RCEB

# Regional Center Numbers Statewide

Reported as of 12/28/2020; Total Reported Cases 7,249

Total Served: 355,957; 2%

Reported as of 2/5/2021; Total Reported Cases 13,102

Total Served 356,351; 3.6%

## CURRENT BY ETHNICITY

<b>Ethnicity</b>		% in the Regional Center Population
Latino	41%	40%
Asian	4%	9%
African American	8%	9%
White	40%	30%
Other	6%	13%

# RCEB clients testing positive

Reported as of 12/28/2020

- ▶ 12/28/2020: 280 clients with positive tests      21,654 is our total population 1.3%
- 2/5/2021 473 clients with positive tests;      21,654 ; 2.2.%

## Ethnicity

	COVID +	% in the RCEB Population
Latino	20%	24%
Asian	12%	18%
African American	15%	16%
White	45%	26%
Other	8 %	15%

# Living Arrangements Statewide

Living Arrangement	Number of Case	Percentage of COVID Numbers	Percentage of Regional Center Consumers
Community Care Facility (CCF)	3,610	28%	7%
Intermediate Care Facilities	1912	14%	2%
SLS,ILS, FHA	1566	12%	8%
Family/Own Home	5240	40%	81%
Nursing Facility	535	4%	0%
Other Institutions	239	2%	2%

# Deaths Related to COVID 19

Living Arrangement	Number of Case	Percentage of COVID Numbers	Percentage of Regional Center Consumers
Community Care Facility (CCF)	3,610	28%	7%
Intermediate Care Facilities	1912	14%	2%
SLS,ILS, FHA	1566	12%	8%
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# Reminders Re Testing

- Anyone experiencing COVID-19 symptoms
- Anyone, regardless of symptoms, who has been come in close contact (within 6 feet for 15 minutes or longer) with someone confirmed to have COVID-19 within the past 14 days
- Health care workers
- Employees of long-term care facilities and skilled nursing facilities
- First responders (Firefighters, EMTs, Police, etc.)
- Anyone with chronic medical problems that impact the immune system
- Essential and frontline employees (grocery store, restaurant, delivery drivers, security, construction, etc.)
- People who have participated in protests within the past 14 day

# Find testing resources online

- ▶ Alameda County

<https://covid-19.acgov.org/testing.page>

- ▶ Contra Costa County

[www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/get-tested](http://www.coronavirus.cchealth.org/get-tested)

- ▶ Kaiser Members

<https://healthy.kaiserpermanente.org/northern-california/health-wellness/coronavirus-information>

- ▶ Statewide, search by zip code

<https://covid19.ca.gov/get-tested/>



# Important info about the Vaccines

from [CDC.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/facts.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/facts.html)

- ▶ Safety of the Covid-19 vaccine is top priority > all vaccines now available were approved for use by the FDA after large clinical trials
- ▶ Covid-19 vaccination will help protect you from getting Covid-19. Two doses are needed, the second dose follows first dose in 3-4 weeks
- ▶ CDC and California Dept of Public Health as guided by the Community Vaccine Advisory Committee makes recommendations for who should be offered COVID-19 vaccine first as supplies are limited
- ▶ Currently health care workers and long-term care residents are getting vaccinated. RCEB is coordinating this effort with our two county Public Health Departments.

# California's COVID-19 Vaccine Plan

- ▶ Vaccines will be offered to different groups of people in phases because the vaccine supply is limited now. US, supply will increase in the weeks and months to come
- ▶ In California to a system managed by Blue Shield. Aside from the Federal Partnerships for long term care vaccine distribution in the next weeks will pivot in to a system managed through Blue Shield contract. This is a shift from county management and decision making.
- ▶ There have been problems with the initial roll out and varying priorities by counties some due to available supply.
- ▶ State articulates that equity is at the core of decisions about prioritization

# Phase 1 A

- ▶ Phase 1A includes health care workers and long-term care residents \*CVS and Walgreens are currently administering the free Covid-19 vaccine to residents and staff of long-term care settings\*
- ▶ Additional clarifications as to who is in this category have occurred over the last months expanding to workers in more areas such as ABA workers, regional center staff in some roles, and family caregivers .
- ▶ In Home Support Workers are in this category as well

# Phase 1 B Tier 1

- ▶ Phase 1B tier one originally included : individuals 75 or older, those with risk of exposure at work in the following sectors: education, childcare, emergency services, and food and agriculture
- ▶ CDC guidance in n early January indicated everyone 65 plus should be in this group because of risk of severe illness and death
- ▶ This added to confusion as some areas limited it originally to 75 +
- ▶ However this meant that other groups saw their ability to get vaccine further and further away

# Announcement To Move to Age Based System

- ▶ The governor announced several weeks ago that the state would move to a system managed by Blue Shield and that group 1B Tier 1 ( including educators and those 65+ ) would be completed and then things would move to an age based
- ▶ This was met by frustration and some anger as no one knew where they would fall and could predict when their turn would be..

It also was skewing who got the vaccine from the communities with the most serious overall impacts leading to questions about equity

# Changes to the Prioritization Plans

- ▶ Initially the State planned to go through tiers based on both age and essential worker categories
- ▶ Much related to using the people most at risk of contracting COVID 19 due to being essential workers
- ▶ People living in congregate settings and their staff were separated into another program through the Federal Partnership where vaccine would be brought to them
- ▶ The first group 1 A was health care workers

# State COVID Vaccine Advisory Committee

Meeting of public health officials, advocacy organizations, to make recommendations for prioritization of the vaccine distribution based on principles of equity for California

There as been a strong push by self advocates and supporters that people with chronic conditions putting them at high risk for adverse outcomes be moved up

Until last week's task force , there wasn't much movement on this issue. Last week, there was a decision that the concerns about prioritization of those with chronic conditions would move to the drafting guidelines work group.

On Monday, at a press conference in San Diego, the governor was asked directly about those with IDD. He said there would be a plan this Friday

# Vaccines

For both currently available vaccines, a person must be observed by another person for 15 minutes who could respond in an emergency .

After COVID-19 vaccination, you may have some side effects, this is a normal sign that your body is building protection –

- \*Common side effects include: Pain and swelling at injection site (arm)

- \*Fever, Chills, Tiredness and Headache can also occur but should go away in a few days.

- \*If experiencing these side effects, rest, drink fluids, apply cool washcloth to sore/swollen arm and ask your health provider if you should

- Covid-19 vaccines can not make you sick with Covid-19, none of the vaccines contain the live virus that causes Covid-19



# Vaccines

should not have to pay for the vaccine, regardless of insurance

- ▶ Two vaccines are being administered now, many other vaccines are on the way, in development and in clinical trials.
  - ▶ Pfizer-BioNTech, mRNA vaccine for persons aged 16y and older, requires very cold storage, two doses given 21 days apart, common side effects, which can last for several days include: pain at the injection site, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, and fever.
  - ▶ Moderna, mRNA vaccine for persons aged 18y and older, two doses given 28 days apart, common side effects, which can last for several days include: pain at injection site, tiredness, muscle pain, chills, joint pain, swollen lymph nodes in the arm of injection

# Promising New Developments

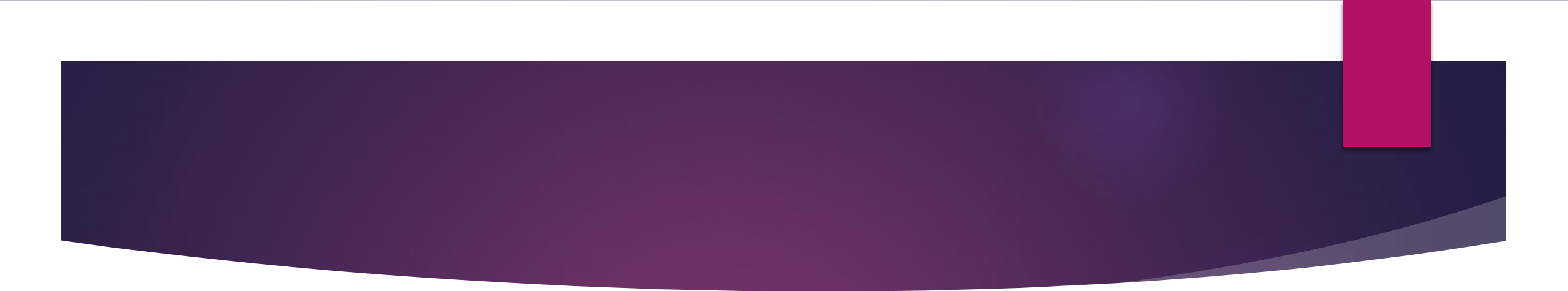
Johnson & Johnson/Janssen has released their data and submitted to the FDA for emergency approval. The FDA is to review on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

This is a one dose vaccine similar to the technology used for vaccines for the Ebola virus the seasonal flu vaccine. It also doesn't have delicate storage requirements

Its effectiveness has been in the range of seasonal flu vaccine and prevents serious illness and death

# Family Caregivers

- ▶ The California Department of Public Health has made the following statement about eligibility for COVID -19 Vaccination in Group 1A. Are family member caregivers of regional center consumers eligible as healthcare providers for Phase 1A

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- ▶ ? Yes, family member caregivers with direct risk of COVID-19 exposure who care for regional center consumers at high risk of COVID-19 complications and related fatalities including the following conditions: cerebral palsy, down syndrome, epilepsy, and individuals who have specialized health care needs, including dependence upon ventilators, oxygen, and other technology are eligible. This does not include other family members within the same household who do not provide direct care to the regional center consumer. Eligible family members must obtain documentation from their regional centers, verifying the qualifying condition of the family member cared for and caregiver status.

# Family Caregivers

- ▶ Initially guidance was that the IPP/IFSP could be used to document that someone was a family caregiver. Some health systems refused to accept the guidance from the Department of Developmental Services and only would honor guidance from the Department of Public Health.
- ▶ This changed with following guidance directly from CDPH

Based on this guidance RCEB will complete documentation letters for the family caregivers who fall in the named categories and that is documented at RCEB. This does not include all people served by RCEB.

# Directive from the Department of Developmental Services

- ▶ Regional Centers must contact all individuals served within 30 days of the directive to “inquire about the health, safety and well-being of the consumer and family, and to obtain information regarding testing and vaccinations and any outstanding needs, such as services and supports and personal protective equipment (PPE). Regional centers should plan recurring follow-up contacts and increase contacts on an individual basis unless the consumer, family or authorized representative requests less frequency”

# What Should You Expect?

- ▶ Email or phone call from the case manager
  - ▶ Whatever method they usually contact you by.
  - ▶ Will ask about current health and any needs
  - ▶ Will inquire about any illnesses since last conversation or contact
  - ▶ Will find out if the individual served and family members have tested positive for COVID 19
  - ▶ Also will ask about vaccination status , share information about caregiver letter, and what we know about the prioritization of those with IDD

# Contact Frequency

- ▶ Your case manager will ask if you would like to be contacted more frequently during this time
  - ▶ For people who live independently, contact frequency is every quarter, at minimum
  - ▶ For people over age three living with their families, contact frequency is at minimum once per year
  - ▶ For those under three years, contact frequency is at least every six months



# Who is eligible?

- ▶ Those who provide direct care in the household.
- ▶ Conditions are:
  - ▶ Cerebral Palsy
  - ▶ Epilepsy
  - ▶ Down Syndrome
  - ▶ Other conditions with specialized health care needs

# When to Contact RCEB

Do a RCEB consumer need PPE ;Does a family member need PPE to care

# Next Steps

- ▶ RCEB 's Website will be launching a COVID Testing and Vaccination Section.
- ▶ We will post information on Vaccines/Who is Eligible/Any opportunities for Testing for people served by RCEB
- ▶ Vaccines will allow us to start to reopen activities and engage with family and friends safely.

# When to connect with your case manager

- ▶ PPE: Do you need it for an individual served or family members providing care to a COVID positive individual
- ▶ The individual served or a family member tests positive
  - ▶ You need extra support as typical caregivers aren't available
  - ▶ You have a hospitalized family member and need extra support
  - ▶ There may be a need for out of home care for a period of time
- ▶ Someone is hospitalized
  - ▶ Will there be more needs after hospitalization

# What's Next??

► Expect

# Directive for Contact From DDS