

THIS CA UPDATE HAS BEEN SENT TO THE FOLLOWING:**COUNTIES:**

- Imperial
- Riverside/San Bernardino
- Los Angeles
- Orange
- Sacramento
- San Diego

LINES OF BUSINESS:

- Molina Medi-Cal Managed Care
- Molina Medicare Options Plus
- Molina Dual Options Cal MediConnect Plan (Medicare-Medicaid Plan)
- Molina Marketplace (Covered CA)

PROVIDER TYPES:

- Medical Group/ IPA/MSO**
 - Primary Care**
 - IPA/MSO
 - Directs
- Specialists**
 - Directs
 - IPA
- Hospitals**
 - Ancillary**
 - CBAS
 - SNF/LTC
 - DME
 - Home Health
 - Other

COVID-19 Vaccine Administration APL 20-022

This is an advisory notification to Molina Healthcare of California (MHC) network providers to provide information and guidance regarding COVID-19 vaccine coverage and administration.

This notification is based on an All-Plan Letter (APL) 20-022, which can be found in full on the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) website at: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Documents/MMCDAPLsandPolicyLetters/APL2020/APL20-022.pdf>

BACKGROUND:

On March 11, 2021, President Joe Biden signed into law H.R. 1319, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act of 2021.1 Section 9811 of the ARP established a new mandatory Medicaid benefit and amended various other sections of the Act. Under these changes to the statute, nearly all Medicaid populations must receive coverage of COVID-19 vaccines and their administration, without cost-sharing.

DHCS is following California's COVID-19 vaccination plan, and California's COVID-19 Vaccine Action Plan, which was approved by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). California is leveraging its existing immunization framework and emergency response infrastructure to coordinate efforts between state, local, and territorial authorities to administer the vaccines.

DHCS continues to closely monitor and respond to COVID-19 and is providing information on the COVID-19 Medi-Cal response webpage to all providers as a reminder of recommended safety procedures and protocols from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and CDPH to help prevent spread of COVID-19. DHCS issued initial policy guidance on the COVID-19 vaccine administration and reimbursement policy, and is providing updates on an ongoing basis, as necessary.

Additional Information

Pharmacies, retail clinics, providers, and any other sites of care must sign an agreement with the U.S. government to receive free supplies of the COVID-19 vaccines.

Under the agreement, all providers must vaccinate individuals regardless of existing health coverage or the type of coverage. Providers are prohibited from balance billing or otherwise charging vaccine recipients.

Providers must administer the vaccines in accordance with the CDC and Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) requirements, and they must meet storage and recordkeeping requirements, including recording the administration of the vaccines to patients in their own systems within 24 hours and to public health data systems within 72 hours.

POLICY:

COVID-19 Vaccine Administration

Currently, vaccines should be given to every Californian ages six (6) months and older, in accordance with CDC and ACIP guidelines. The “MyTurn” website provides Californians with information on the COVID vaccine, including boosters, and how to schedule appointments or find walk-in clinics.

MHC members can call MHC for assistance in booking a vaccine appointment and arranging transportation to that appointment. MHC will assist in coordination of vaccine services and transportation, as needed. The MyTurn website has a check box that asks if an individual needs transportation to a vaccine appointment. If the individual checks this box, they are informed that they will receive a call to schedule their vaccine appointment. A customer service representative from the California COVID-19 Vaccination Services Information Line call center will contact the individual. If the individual needs transportation and has Medi-Cal, and is enrolled in MHC, the call center representative will schedule their vaccine appointment and connect them to MHC for transportation coordination. If an individual is medically fragile or has mobility issues, they may be eligible for an in-home vaccination. Individuals who are homebound should contact their medical provider, LHD, or 211 regarding an in-home vaccination.

After MHC identifies those homebound members who want an in-home vaccination, MHC will refer the member to their medical provider, LHD, or 211 to check on eligibility for an in-home vaccination. Assistance for members is also available through the California COVID-19 Hotline at 1-833-422-4255. For those members who do not want an in-home vaccination, MHC will assist in coordination of vaccine services and transportation, as needed.

DHCS acknowledges that arranging appointments for vaccines for homebound members via referrals to their medical provider, LHD, or 211 is one approach that can be used by MHC. MHC will work with Subcontractors and Network Providers to vaccinate members who are ages six (6) months and older.

Third Primary Series Dose of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine for Persons Considered Moderately or Severely Immunosuppressed

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has authorized, and the CDC recommends, that persons with certain medical conditions that suppress the immune system who received both primary series doses of one of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna), depending on age, get a third primary dose of the same initially administered vaccine at least 28 days after the second dose. This third dose can help protect individuals with weakened immune systems who may not have had a strong enough response to the first two doses of one of the mRNA vaccines.

Booster Recommendations

A booster is an additional dose of vaccine given after the protection provided by the original shot(s) has begun to decrease over time, designed to help individuals maintain their immunity for longer. The CDC recommends COVID-19 vaccine booster shots for all eligible individuals. COVID-19 vaccine booster recommendations are rapidly evolving as more information becomes available. The latest recommendations can be found on the CDC and CDPH websites. Details on the timing and brand of

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vaccine for the booster, which depend on an individual's age and brand of vaccine initially administered, can also be found on the CDC and CDPH websites.

COVID-19 Testing Requirements for Health and Congregate Care Workers

On July 26, 2021, CDPH issued COVID-19 diagnostic testing requirements for employees in health care, long-term care, congregate living, and similar types of facilities who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19. These diagnostic testing requirements have been rescinded for workers in certain congregate and other specified settings, effective September 17, 2022, per CDPH Public Health Order issued September 13, 2022.

On December 22, 2021, CDPH issued Public Health Orders that expand these COVID-19 diagnostic testing requirements to include COVID-19 vaccine booster-eligible workers in health care facilities and in-home direct care settings specified in the Orders who have not yet received their booster, effective December 27, 2021. CDPH strongly recommends that all workers in Skilled Nursing Facilities (SNF) (including those that are fully vaccinated and boosted) undergo at least twice weekly screening testing. These diagnostic testing requirements have been rescinded (except as specifically noted to comply with federal requirements) for workers exempt due to medical reasons or religious beliefs, effective September 17, 2022, per CDPH Public Health Order issued September 13, 2022.

Face Covering Guidance in Response to COVID-19 Variants and Population Vaccination Rates

On September 20, 2022, CDPH issued updated guidance on the use of masks. The purpose of this guidance is to provide information about settings where masks are required or recommended to prevent transmission to persons with higher risk of infection (e.g., unvaccinated or immunocompromised persons), to persons with prolonged, cumulative exposures (e.g., workers), or to persons whose vaccination status is unknown.

Requirements for Visitors in Acute Health Care and Long-Term Care Settings

On December 31, 2021, and as amended on February 7, 2022, CDPH issued a Public Health Order pertaining to indoor visitation at general acute care hospitals, SNFs, intermediate care facilities, and adult and senior care residential facilities licensed by the California Department of Social Services. Requirements on limitation of indoor visitation at these facilities is being issued in order to prevent the further spread of COVID-19.

Health Care Worker Vaccine Requirement

On August 5, 2021 and September 9, 2021, CDPH issued a Public Health Order and guidance related to workers who provide services or work at specified health care facilities. By September 30, 2021, all workers, as defined, must have their first dose of a one-dose regimen or their second dose of a two-dose regimen. Please note, these requirements remain in effect; however, the aforementioned CDPH Public Health Order and guidance has been superseded.

On September 28, 2021, CDPH issued a Public Health Order expanding the definition of a worker in adult and senior care facilities and in-home direct care settings. By November 30, 2021, all workers, as defined, must have their first dose of a one-dose regimen or their second dose of a two-dose regimen. Please note, these requirements remain in effect; however, the aforementioned CDPH Public Health Order has been superseded.²²

On December 22, 2021, CDPH issued a Public Health Order that requires workers in specified health care facilities who are eligible for a booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine to be "fully vaccinated and boosted" for COVID-19, receiving all recommended doses of the primary series of vaccines and a vaccine booster dose pursuant to the Public Health Order. Workers who are eligible must receive their booster dose by no later than March 1, 2022. Workers who are not yet eligible for a vaccine booster dose by that time must be in compliance no later than 15 days after timeframe indicated in

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the Public Health Order for receiving a vaccine booster dose. Please note, these requirements remain in effect; however, the aforementioned CDPH Public Health Order has been superseded, with amendments regarding the timing of required booster doses.

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions regarding the notification, please contact your Molina Provider Services Representative. Please refer to the phone numbers listed below:

Service County Area	Provider Services Representative	Contact Number	Email Address
San Diego/Imperial County	Carlos Liciaga	858-614-1591	Carlos.Liciaga@molinahealthcare.com
Los Angeles/Orange County	Clemente Arias	562-517-1014	Clemente.Arias@molinahealthcare.com
California Hospital Systems	Deletha Foster	909-577-4351	Deletha.Foster@molinahealthcare.com
Sacramento	Jennifer Rivera Carrasco	562-542-2250	Jennifer.RiveraCarrasco@molinahealthcare.com
San Bernardino	Luana McIver	909-501-3314	Luana.Mciver@molinahealthcare.com
Riverside County	Mary Hernandez	562-542-1550	Mary.Hernandez2@molinahealthcare.com
California Hospital Systems	Shelly Lilly	858-614-1586	Michelle.Lilly@molinahealthcare.com
Los Angeles/San Bernardino	Vanessa Lomeli	909-577-4355	Vanessa.Lomeli2@molinahealthcare.com

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