



COVID-19 Huddle Notes for March 8, 2022

CE Messaging – ¡Ándale! ¿Qué Esperas? Campaign Update

AltaMed's ¡Ándale! ¿Qué Esperas? campaign continues its statewide efforts to provide education and outreach to Latino communities in having community members on a path towards receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. Here are a few updates:

- As of February 2022, the ¡Ándale! ¿Qué Esperas? Campaign has accomplished:
 - Hiring 119 Community Health Workers
 - Provided support services to over 26k
 - Reached 4.9M people via direct outreach
 - 1.9B impressions via paid, earned, and organic digital media this month alone
 - **Over 70k vaccination appointments to date!**

If you have any questions about our ¡Ándale! ¿Qué Esperas? campaign, please reach out to Cynthia Romo, Civic Engagement Program Manager at cynromo@altamed.org or Leslie Hernandez, Civic Engagement Coordinator at leshernandez@altamed.org.

Top News Lines.

Federal

- The Biden administration is requesting \$22.5 billion from Congress for the COVID-19 response. In a letter to Congress, the White House said the additional funds are crucial for efforts around vaccines, treatments, and testing for the U.S and global COVID response. The White House is urging that the funding be included in a broader government funding bill that face a March 11 deadline.
- In response, lawmakers say they are close to an agreement to provide billions in new coronavirus relief, set to be tied to a massive government funding bill. Congress is expected to include at least \$15 billion in response to the Biden administration's request for new funding for COVID-19 vaccines, treatments and testing.
<https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/596679-white-house-requests-225b-for-immediate-covid-19-response-needs>
<https://thehill.com/homenews/senate/597247-congress-nears-deal-on-billions-in-coronavirus-aid>
- Earlier this year, the federal government rolled out a program to give each household 4 COVID tests. With more tests left to give out, the COVIDtests.gov website went live yesterday for all Americans, including those who have already ordered and received their 4 free test kits per household can order another set of 4 COVID tests.

<https://www.covidtests.gov/>

State

- California legislators have proposed a new slate of COVID-19 vaccine laws. These eight bills include: vaccine mandate for children and workers, allow 12 to 17 year olds to get the vaccine without parental consent, require schools to continue testing and to create testing plans, require all employees, including independent contractors, to show proof of COVID-19 vaccine to work in California, make changes to the California Immunization Record Database and reclassify the sharing of COVID-19 “misinformation” by doctors and surgeons as unprofessional conduct that would result in disciplinary action.
<https://calmatters.org/health/coronavirus/2022/03/california-vaccine-laws/>
- Last week, Governor Newsom announced a new proposal to assist people with serious mental illnesses and substance use disorders and would require all 58 counties to participate in the program. The proposal, known as the [Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment \(or CARE\) Court](#), would provide a framework for courts to compel people with serious mental illnesses and substance use disorders into treatment, while also providing participants with supportive housing and wrap-around services.
<https://calmatters.org/health/2022/03/newsom-california-mental-illness-treatment/>
- Tonight, Governor Newsom will deliver the State of the State at 5PM which is likely to have a more optimistic tone than the last two he delivered during the heightened uncertainty of the pandemic and the then-recall election against him.
<https://apnews.com/article/2022-midterm-elections-covid-business-health-elections-3457561399ab39021a7f71c613e2102d>

Local

- Since this last Friday, indoor mask-wearing will no longer be mandatory in Los Angeles County thanks to revised data released by federal health officials showing a decreased impact of COVID-19 on the county’s health care system. The CDC on Thursday officially moved the county out of the “high” virus activity category and into the low category.
<https://abc7.com/los-angeles-county-indoor-mask-mandate-covid-data-cdc-guidance/11619897/>
- LA City Council President Nury Martinez introduced a motion Friday to end the city’s mandate requiring proof of vaccination to enter many indoor establishments and large outdoor events. The city ordinance went into effect Nov 8. Martinez motion calls for rolling back the city ordinance requirements; although individual businesses



would be permitted to voluntarily require proof of vaccination. If the motion is passed by the full City Council, the city attorney will be instructed to prepare a new ordinance and bring it back to the council for a final vote.

<https://www.foxla.com/news/covid-vaccine-proof-los-angeles>

Medical Director of Infection Prevention

Dr. Brown was reflecting back to two years ago of how life for us would forever change, March 5th to be exact. Every moment of everyone's life has been modified by the response to this pandemic. Now we're in a lull again with this pandemic similar to what we saw last spring when we thought everything was possibly getting better and could potentially be over. The cases in LA County, Orange County and AltaMed are the lowest that we've seen since last spring. Things are looking very promising and there's a lot of hope in regards to the covid pandemic.

Unfortunately, life is giving us something new to worry about with this crisis in Ukraine. It is hard to imagine and describe what is happening there and our thoughts are with those people and we are hoping for a peaceful end.

Things are slowly getting better, however, the pandemic has not gone away and it is still raging in other parts of the world. When we are thinking about going out in the community and not wearing our mask please think about the people that you are around, think about your own vulnerability because it is still possible that with the masks coming off we may see another surge in covid or in some other upper respiratory tract infection, like influenza. The recommendation is when indoors to wear a mask when in a public place, as well as for children to wear a mask indoors while in school. It is not required but it is still recommended.

Please keep in mind those that are vulnerable and could potentially get infected with covid or influenza. Many of us are vaccinated and boosted which makes our chances of having a severe infection very low, but that is not the case for some of our older more vulnerable individuals those that have many medical conditions and those that have not yet been vaccinated, like our children under five years old. Continue to talk with your kids about the importance of being safe, washing hands, trying not to hug and kiss people while at school and encouraging mask usage indoors.

Additional tests were ordered yesterday from the federal government. Due to the surplus of tests we have also been able to get more Quidel covid rapid test kits at AltaMed. Dr. Brown will be sending a message out that we will be less restrictive on the covid antigen test kits and we will be able to use them to test patients in all of our clinical sites once again as all sites will be able order them. She will also be sending out another revised message in regards to lifting the covid antigen test restrictions as they have not been in high demand.

We hope everyone stay's safe and can find some sense of calm in your life and happiness.



Human Resources

You are eligible to receive the booster 5 months after the second dose of Pfizer/Moderna, and 2 months after the initial dose for J&J. If you have not already done so, please send proof of your booster to Employee Health email employeehealth@altamed.org.

You will continue to receive notification of your booster status (eligible or not) until you have received your booster. For any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to Employee Health, as we are here schedule your booster appointments.