

COVID-19 Huddle 8/17/21

Government Relations

CE Huddle Message for August 17, 2021

U.S. Census Bureau Releases 2020 Census Results

Last Thursday, the U.S. Census Bureau released the 2020 Census survey results. Preliminary data showed the apportionment of the congressional seats, which resulted in California losing one seat. This newly released data will also help states create and draw the district lines in this year's redistricting process.

Overall, our nation saw a 330 million increase in our U.S population from the previous 2010 Census. Some of the results showed that Hispanics more than doubled their population along with the Asian population. Of important note, the majority of individuals 18 and under are non-white, showing the country's population to be more racially and ethnically diverse.

Although the 2020 Census data demonstrates an increase within the Hispanic population, there has still been a significant undercount in the communities we serve. This is due to not only the pandemic, but also the controversial proposal we saw last year to add a citizenship question from the previous presidential administration.

An undercount of Hispanics has far-reaching implications for the next decade that will directly impact federal funding for health care and social services and policymaking. This data will also be used to redraw voting districts, an impact that will undoubtedly have more detrimental consequences for communities that have been hardest hit by the pandemic and that have been historically underfunded.

We would like to thank everyone who helped us last year during the Census campaign to make sure everyone got counted. Our collective efforts resulted in securing almost \$1B in funding for our communities!

National Health Center Week – Video Contest Extension

- As part of our NHCW celebration last week, our Government Relations team is extending the video contest, which is open to all AltaMed employees, to the end of this week, Friday August 20th.
- Participants will be eligible to win one of five \$100 gift cards in our contest raffle. In addition, the first 50 participants will receive 25 employee recognition points.
- As a quick reminder, here are the participation rules
 - Record a short video (30 seconds or less) that highlights the impact that health centers and their workforce have made during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Submit your video to Government Relations by Friday, August 20th
 - Some videos may be featured on AltaMed's social media channels.
 - Please join in on this celebration, if you haven't already!

Top News Lines

- I am sure that Dr. Brown will be talking about this more in a bit, but I want to report that the FDA and CDC have authorized an additional dose of a COVID-19 vaccine for certain people – those with weakened immune systems caused either by disease, medical treatments or organ transplants. This authorization is for the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines only.
- Additionally, the CDC is also now recommending the COVID-19 vaccination to people who are pregnant, breastfeeding, trying to get pregnant now, or might become pregnant in the future.
- See [here](#) and [here](#) for more information.
- See [here](#) and [here](#) for official guidance.

<https://www.npr.org/2021/08/13/1027296490/fda-authorizes-third-covid-dose-immunocompromised>

Infection Prevention Control

- The third dose was approved for moderate to severe immune system suppression. The examples that Dr. Brown sent out in her Friday communication include the following:
 - History of solid organ transplant.
 - History of bone marrow or stem cell transplant.
 - Current cancer or on chemotherapy.
 - HIV/AIDS
 - Chronic steroid use for 1 month or more.
 - Use of immune modulating therapies such as Rituximab
 - Kidney disease requiring dialysis
 - Presence of cirrhosis
 - Inherited or acquired immune deficiency syndromes.
- Most of the AltaMed patients do not fit in this category. At AltaMed, the HIV/AIDS patients will be the most impacted. These patients can obtain a 3rd dose, if they were previously vaccinated with the second dose, 28 days ago or more. Ideally patients should receive the same type of vaccine. For example, Dr. Brown completed her Moderna series in January, if she were to get a 3rd dose, she would get Moderna.
- At AltaMed we have both Moderna and Pfizer available, we are updating the vaccine hotline with this information.
- Patients who have HIV or AIDS qualify for the 3rd dose as long as they meet the standing order criteria based on the provider's assessment.
- Please reach out to Dr. Brown for any questions. The further out from the vaccine series, the less robust the immunity is likely to be. Dr. Brown sent out an updated email on Friday, 8/13 and an updated standing order on Monday, 8/16.
- Dr. Brown will be talking about the vaccine during today's Grand Rounds session at 12:15pm. Please click [here](#) to join.

Human Resources

- AltaMed will begin twice weekly testing of employees starting tomorrow for people who have declined or for whom Employee Health doesn't have a record. Today, I will be sending leaders the list of their employees who fall into these categories. These employees must be tested.
- Employees who Employee Health shows as declining the vaccine or not having vaccination information on file were emailed by me last Friday. Thank you to those who received the email but

were already vaccinated and provided proof of vaccination to Employee Health (employeehealth@altamed.org).

- Employees who have not been vaccinated but want to get a COVID vaccine should contact Employee Health (Employeehealth@altamed.org) or 323-765-6153 to schedule an appointment. Remember, if you've previously declined, you can change your mind at any time and schedule an appointment.
- Today marks day 2 of the 2021 Employee and Provider Engagement Survey. We are off to a great start with 28% on the Employee survey and 20% on the Provider survey. To ensure high participation, we ask that all leaders extend a personal invite to staff to complete the survey and provide their feedback and ideas for shaping the future of work at AltaMed. Employees that complete the survey by August 20 will be entered into a raffle prize drawing and teams that achieve 100% participation by August 20 will earn a team lunch. Last day to complete the survey is September 7.