



## **COVID-19 Huddle Notes for October 5, 2021**

### **Government Relations**

#### **AltaMed's National Voter Registration Day Webinar**

Last Thursday, AltaMed hosted a webinar celebrating National Voter Registration Day. Panelists discussed AltaMed's Get-out-the-Vote efforts, why providers and healthcare organizations are trusted messengers when registering patients, and how to separate fact from fictions as we prepare for the midterm elections in 2022.

If you missed the webinar, you can view it here:

<https://mvmh.us/nvrdwebinarrecording>

If you have any questions about the webinar or if you would like to register to vote, please reach out to Jonathan Flores, Civic Engagement Specialist, at [jonaflores@altamed.org](mailto:jonaflores@altamed.org)

### **Top News Lines**

#### **State**

- The state healthcare worker vaccination mandate that was previously announced is now in full effect and has allowed us to safe return to the office this week.
- Additionally, Governor Newsom announced on Friday the nation's first COVID-19 vaccine mandate for schoolchildren. This would require all elementary through high school students get the COVID vaccine shots once the vaccine gains final approval from the FDA and CDC. The Government Relations team will be monitoring this very closely as it develops.

<https://www.npr.org/2021/10/01/1042425428/california-covid-19-vaccine-mandate-schools-children-newsom>

#### **Infection Prevention Medical Director**

- It is our return to work week and Dr. Brown wanted to talk about a question we received on the FAQs. Every week we send out our weekly message and people have the opportunity to write in questions. One of the questions that came in was related to safe environment in our office spaces. Dr. Brown went through a few different safety measures that are currently in place to keep all of us safe while we are at work in the office.



- We made a really strong drive to get as many people vaccinated as we could at AltaMed due to the Health Officer Order mandate in California. As of now greater than 99% of our staff are vaccinated at AltaMed. We modified our policy and we require that everyone be fully vaccinated or do testing twice a week if they have a medical exemption and were not able to be fully vaccinated. Every person regardless if they are vaccinated or not need to be screened for any symptoms of COVID or exposure prior to entering the building. All of these measures are in place across the organization, including clinics and administrative spaces.
- If you arrive at work and you are not feeling well, we have rapid testing that is available at the 2035 Camfield building. You need to contact Employee Health and they can provide you with instructions on what steps to take next.
- Everyone needs to wear a mask at all times that is a surgical mask or higher grade unless they are in a room by themselves. You can remind anyone that is not in compliance or you can alert their manager.
- Each cubicle seat at AltaMed is six feet or more from others, there are some areas where people might need to be a little bit closer and we have made some modifications with plexiglass. If you are sitting near someone and you would like to be safer and feel you are closer than six feet then we recommend getting a face shield to provide yourself with even further protection.
- We have additional masks and personal protective equipment available for everyone to request, including KN95 mask and those can be procured from the supply chain and can be delivered.  
N95 masks are also available but require a fit test and Employee Health can help you with N95 fit testing.  
There are also face shields, gloves, gowns, booties and hair bouffants.  
Cleaning wipes are available to wipe down your workstation both before and after work. We have hand hygiene dispensers that are available throughout the buildings.
- Anytime we have a positive employee at work Employee Health and Infection Prevention do a thorough investigation to see if there is anyone that might have had a close high risk contact to let them know and see if they need to be tested. The great thing about being fully vaccinated is that if you do have an exposure you do not need to quarantine at home, you are able to continue to work unless you develop symptoms.
- All of our high touch surfaces are frequently wiped clean and disinfected. Our buildings and ceilings are nice and high which allows for air to dissipate. Our Hvac systems have MERV 13



filtration and the air turnover rate and spacing allows for any aerosols to dissipate rapidly and don't concentrate in an area to cause people to become ill.

- We take safety at work extremely serious and we haven't had any COVID transmissions at work as long as people are wearing their appropriate personal protective equipment and masks. Most of the exposures that we have had happen have occurred because people have let down their guard on breaks, and were sitting too close with their masks down, or after hours when people are close to friends and family without masks.
- We are in the middle of our flu campaign and want all of our employees to get vaccinated for the flu. We are looking at all the different work sites within the different departments and will be taking a look at the flu rates. Any sites that have 100% flu vaccine rate will be put you in a drawing, and will receive a treat for the working Division at the end of October.
- Dr. Brown hopes that all this information makes you feel more secure and safe at work. If you continue to have any questions or concerns, please let us know so we can make sure that we can make all of our environments as safe as possible.

## **Human Resources**

1. Today is the final day to complete the LMU engagement survey. If you have not already done so please take a few minutes to share your thoughts and provide a final reminder to your team. For more details, please review the message from our CEO on the homepage of Town Square.
2. As we enter the final quarter of 2021 all leaders will have an opportunity to explore key drivers of engagement for their teams and reflect on the insights from staff's feedback on the provider and employee engagement survey. We are happy to announce that this Friday leaders will be provided with access to the survey results for their work unit. Along with the results and an instant download to present results, you will have a variety of resources available to you including resources for interpreting the survey results and action planning all of which are available within the online Press Ganey survey portal. Keep an eye out for an email from Press Ganey with your login details.
3. Looking ahead the Benefits team is gearing up for our annual open enrollment cycle which is slated for Nov. 1-19. Please mark your calendars and support your teams by sharing the dates and encouraging staff to sign up for one of the information sessions so



they can learn more about all the benefits available to them. Dates for the information sessions will be communicated in the coming weeks.

4. In conjunction with the state order and AltaMed's Covid Immunization Policy, new signage is now posted at all sites to inform contracted personnel and vendors of the requirement to show proof of the Covid-19 vaccination or medical exemption. Please note that this requirement does not apply to patients, visitors, or delivery personnel.