

Government Relations

Thank you and good morning everyone! Happy Tuesday.

Celebrating Community Health Center's COVID-19 Response, Recovery, & Growth

Redistricting Training for Southeast Los Angeles Residents

- On Monday evening, AltaMed hosted a Redistricting training with NALEO Educational Fund and MALDEF.
- Trainings encourage community leaders and members how to engage in the Redistricting process—which can be very intimidating—and use the tools available to participate in the upcoming California Redistricting Commission public comment meetings to advocate for their communities and neighborhoods. If you were not able to participate, please know that similar trainings will be available in the future. We hope you can join us!
- If you or your staff are interested in participating in the redistricting process, or have questions about it, please contact Jonathan Flores, Civic Engagement Specialist, at jonaflor@altamed.org.

Coming Soon: National Health Center Week (August 9-14)

- We are also excited to announce that National Health Center Week is coming up next week: August 9th through August 14th.
- The theme this year is: Community Health Centers – The Chemistry for Strong Communities.
- Please be on the lookout for messages from our team that will provide an opportunity for each of you to engage to share and celebrate the contributions that Community Health Centers and our employees—have made throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Top News Lines

CDC Change in Masking Guidelines

- A major change coming out of the CDC occurred last week, recommending that even vaccinated people return to wearing masks indoors in parts of the U.S. where the delta variant of the coronavirus has been increasing daily infections.
- The CDC also recommended indoor masks for all teachers, staff, students and visitors at schools nationwide, regardless of vaccination status.
- With the new CDC guidance, nearly all vaccinated Californians should return to wearing masks indoors since the guidelines apply to regions with “high or substantial” transmission rates.
- Last week, here in California our public health agency recommended that people wear masks indoors regardless of their vaccination status.
- Though this change has impacted many businesses and individuals, there is no impact here at AltaMed since we have continued our masking requirements at all AltaMed facilities, including corporate.

- More info [here](#) and [here](#)

J&J Expiration Date Extension

- The FDA has again extended the expiration dates on Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine, noting J&J COVID vaccines remain safe and effective for at least six months when properly refrigerated.
- This is the second time the FDA has extended the shelf life on the vaccines since June.
- More info [here](#)

US Hits 70% Vaccination Rate — A Month Late, Amid A Surge

- The U.S. on Monday finally reached President Joe Biden's goal of getting at least one COVID-19 shot into 70% of American adults -- a month late from his original goal.
- More info [here](#)

Infection Prevention Medical Director

- The CDC's change in mask guidance came after an outbreak that was identified in Massachusetts after a large amount of individuals became effective after July 4th. Less than 1% of the individuals who had been vaccinated (approximately 4 individuals) were hospitalized. The COVID-19 vaccines have been able to prevent hospitalizations and death.
- Thus far, we have not seen a variant that the vaccine is ineffective against. However, it is important to keep in mind that this is a possibility.
- There is no current timeline around boosters.
- In LA county and Orange County, there has been a rise in the cases – currently the positivity rate at AltaMed is between 12% - 13%.
- Every week, there is a weekly huddle message – please review this message with your team every week.
- Patients call the Patient Service Center and are asked several questions about needing to be tested. Preferentially the patients are scheduled via a telehealth visit.
- When the provider is conducting a telehealth visit, if the patient needs to be tested, the provider messages their support staff and the support staff will schedule the patient for testing. The first priority is to test the patient at their home clinic. We should avoid asking the patient to call the Patient Service Center back to schedule a testing appointment, this should be done following the patient's telehealth appointment.
- All the clinics need to be conducting COVID-19 testing so that we can share in the care of our patients.
- We are looking at no show rates, testing rates, and how far out providers are booked. We are actively monitoring whether we need to activate any of our surge tiers.
- Dr. Brown does not expect the cases to go as high as what was seen in the winter time, but we are monitoring very closely.
- Dr. Brown is speaking at the Grand Rounds session this afternoon at 12:15pm and will be addressing questions surrounding boosters.
- Dr. See advised that the templates for COVID-19 testing are currently not open. Dr. Brown and regional leadership will be meeting to plan testing prioritization.

Human Resources

- **Rental Assistance is Available to Help Renters and Landlords.** The federal moratorium on evictions expired last week. The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) has published a [Rental Assistance Finder](#) to help renters and landlords avoid eviction. It can help them understand resources available to help navigate various financial hardships related to the pandemic.
- Employees who Employee Health shows as declining the vaccine or not having vaccination information on file will be contacted by Employee Health this week. If you receive this email but have been vaccinated, please email proof of vaccination to Employee Health at 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.