



COVID-19 Huddle Notes for January 18, 2022

¡Ándale! ¿Qué esperas? Update

The ¡Ándale! ¿Qué esperas? Campaign continues to engage Latinos statewide and have them be on a path towards vaccination through the partnership of community health centers in Southeast Los Angeles, Orange County to rural Northern San Diego and down to the Central Valley and Central Coast regions.

Since the inception of the ¡Ándale! ¿Qué esperas? Campaign in June of 2021, together we:

- **Contacted over 604,000 community members** via door-to-door, phones, canvassing, and community events. This includes thousands of conversations to get unvaccinated community members on the path toward their first dose.
- **Scheduled over 13,000 COVID-19 vaccination appointments** via both our field efforts as well as our statewide 855-YA-ANDALE call center operations.
- Collectively recruited, hired, and on boarded over **103 community health workers** from our communities to serve our communities.
- Surpassed our goal of reaching 4.5 million Latinos and to date have **achieved over 1 BILLION impressions and reach** totals via public education, awareness, digital and mass media efforts.

As we enter a new year, we will continue to make strides with partnerships in reaching more Latinos statewide and provide necessary education, outreach and overall vaccination resources. If you have any questions, please reach out to Lizette Escobedo at lescobedo@altamed.org

Government Affairs Update

Last week, Governor Newsom unveiled his proposed \$286.4 billion budget, focusing on five of California's most pressing challenges: Covid-19, climate change, homelessness, inequality, and public safety.

Timeline: The release of the Governor's proposed budget signals the kick of this year's legislative/budget cycle. In May, the Governor will release his revised budget ("May Revise"). The Legislature must then pass the budget by June 15 and the Governor will have until June 30 to sign the final budget.

There are quite a few AltaMed priorities in this budget, some of the top lines include:

- **Medi-Cal Expansion/Universal Healthcare**
 - \$819.3 million in 2023-24 and \$2.7 billion annually at full implementation, inclusive of In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) costs, to expand full scope Medi-Cal including long-term and behavioral health for ALL low income Californians, regardless of immigration status
 - Implementation date: January 2024

- When included in the final budget, California will be the first state in the nation to achieve universal coverage!
- **COVID-19**
 - \$2.7 Billion Emergency Response Package to ramp up vaccines, boosters, statewide testing, and increase medical personnel to meet potential surges.
- **Healthcare Workforce**
 - \$1.7 billion one-time investment over three years in care economy workforce development to help create more innovative and accessible opportunities to recruit, train, hire, and advance an ethnically and culturally inclusive health and human services workforce, with improved diversity, wages, and health equity outcomes.

If you have any questions on this, please contact Olivia Lee at olilee@altamed.org.

Top News Lines

Federal

- The Biden Administration is purchasing one billion at-home, rapid COVID-19 tests to give to Americans for free. A half-billion tests will be available for order on January 19th and will be mailed directly to American households. There will be free tests available for every household, and to promote broad access, the initial program will allow four free tests to be requested per residential address. Starting January 19th, Americans will be able to order their tests online at COVIDTests.gov, and tests will typically ship within 7-12 days of ordering.
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2022/01/14/fact-sheet-the-biden-administration-to-begin-distributing-at-home-rapid-covid-19-tests-to-americans-for-free/>
- Texas' six week abortion ban, the nation's most restrictive abortion law, remains in effect in Texas after a federal appeals court on Monday rejected a request from abortion providers to immediately return their legal challenge to a trial court judge who had previously blocked the measure. In a 2-to-1 decision, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit temporarily transferred the case to the Texas Supreme Court, a step requested by state officials that could leave the dispute in limbo for months.
https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/courts_law/texas-abortion-law/2022/01/17/d18b848a-7256-11ec-b202-b9b92330d4fa_story.html
- Health care workers covered by the Biden administration's vaccine mandate will have until March 15 to be fully vaccinated in the 24 states where the requirement was reinstated by the Supreme Court, the agency implementing the policy said Friday. Twenty-five states and Washington, DC, continue to face a February 28 deadline for covered health care workers to be fully vaccinated, as the mandate had not been blocked in those states before the Supreme Court order that came down

Thursday. This does not impact AltaMed, as we are following the state vaccination mandates.

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/01/14/politics/vaccine-mandate-hhs-health-care-worker>

County

- Los Angeles County saw an average of 40 coronavirus deaths a day over the past week, the highest such rate in nearly 10 months, a sign that the prolific Omicron variant may be deadlier than many initially believed. The county's daily COVID-19 death rate has doubled in just a week, officials said. According to a Times analysis, the last time average daily deaths has been this high was for the seven-day period that ended on March 28, 2021.

<https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2022-01-16/los-angeles-countys-latest-covid-numbers>

Medical Director of Infection Prevention

We are currently seeing increased hospitalizations and the highest number of cases in all of the recorded history of this pandemic. Here close to home at AltaMed we are seeing an increased demand of patients for upper respiratory tract infection visits and an increased demand for testing. Many of our staff members are getting exposed, getting sick or their family members are getting exposed or getting sick and as a result of that we are having a lot of staff call outs. The morale for people in general in life right now is getting a little bit low and can be a bit difficult.

But why is everything happening right now? We pushed ourselves and got as many people as we could vaccinated, we worked hard on our test team, we talked about how to prevent ourselves from getting COVID. Wearing the different types of masks, but why are we here? It is because we do have these vaccines, because we do have masks, because we have worked so hard. It makes the ability for our economy to open and able to go to work and send our kids to school, all of these things make the world run a little bit better. However, it also increases the risk of having more cases. We are seeing a lot more cases because people are going out and living their lives. Omicron is incredibly contagious and many of us are getting exposed and infected. Thankfully people that are getting infected have had a mild infection because they have been vaccinated or they have had COVID before. We currently have a lot of immunity in our society and are seeing a decreased severity for people that do have underlying immunity, especially vaccine related immunity and people that have gotten their booster.

If you are five months out from your mRNA vaccine and are due for your booster please get your booster. For those of you that have gotten your booster the severity is much less and for those that don't have that immunity it can be scary and we are still seeing those individuals going to the hospital, and hospitals being overrun due to staffing shortages. There is a little bit of light at the end of the tunnel of this surge and this wave will pass. New York and the East Coast cities have peaked and their case numbers are starting to come down which means we are probably about two weeks away from that happening here.

In the meantime we have to hold on and take care of ourselves, our families, and our extended work family. One of the great things about AltaMed is that everyone is friendly and



kind and willing to go that extra effort which doesn't go unnoticed. We are all going to get past this one too. Dr. Brown hopes to see a trend of future variants being milder and hopes this will fade into the background and become an endemic illness that we can all live with.

There is an all provider meeting where Dr. Brown will be talking about all the recent emails she has sent out to go and go over those points. If you are a provider please make sure you pay attention to that and leaders please pay attention to the emails from Dr. Brown and communications so that you are aware of all of all the updates that are happening. Grand Rounds will be taking place today at 12:15pm and Dr. Brown will be talking about things she wasn't able to talk about last week.