

## **COVID-19 Huddle Notes 8/24/2021**

### **Government Relations**

#### **CE Huddle Message for August 24, 2021**

##### **¡Ándale! ¿Qué esperas? Campaign**

In mid-June AltaMed Health Services received HRSA funding to conduct a one of its kind statewide vaccine outreach effort. **¡Ándale! ¿Qué esperas?** is a statewide multigenerational COVID-19 vaccine outreach campaign intended to reach 4.45 million Latinos through a public education campaign and 2.25 million Latinos through direct community outreach efforts in California.

We encourage you to visit our website that is live now, [www.AndaleQueEsperas.com](http://www.AndaleQueEsperas.com), where you will be able to find multiple resources regarding this campaign in both English and Spanish.

Our hotline number, 855-YA-ANDALE is live also, and operators are assisting callers live in Spanish and English and helping connect them to vaccination appointments and events near them. Anyone can call from any part of the state. Please note that out of state callers will be directed to vaccination sites near them using CDC directory. No caller will be turned away regardless of where they are calling us from.

In the next coming weeks you will hear a lot more from our ¡Ándale! ¿Qué esperas? Campaign team. We look forward to collaborating with each and every single one of you. In the meantime if you have any questions, please reach out to Lizette Escobedo, AVP of Civic Engagement and Advocacy at [lescobedo@altamed.org](mailto:lescobedo@altamed.org).

##### **National Health Center Week – Video Raffle Winners**

I'm also excited to announce the video raffle winners to those who submitted a video to us for National Health Center Week. Winners will receive a \$100 gift card:

Nubia Armenta, Community Health Specialist; Joanna Garcia, Research Associate, Inst. For Health Equity; Juan Contreras, Health Educator, Diabetes Prevention Program; Barbara Long, Manager, Employee Giving; and Michelle Rubinstein, Registered Dietician, CHLA Clinic

Congratulations and thank you for participating!

##### **Top News Lines**

- The FDA has fully approved the Pfizer and BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for people 16 and older, making it the first to be fully licensed for use in the United States.
- This will make it easier for universities, hospitals and other workplaces to require vaccination against the coronavirus.
- We likely will see more vaccine mandates come up now that we have this approval  
<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/08/23/fda-gives-full-approval-to-pfizers-covid-19-shot-506584>

- COVID-19 booster shots of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are set to become available for all U.S. adults beginning September 20th, as announced in a joint statement with the Biden Administration. Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek Murthy shared that:
  - They are preparing to offer COVID-19 booster shots to fully vaccinated adults 18 years and older
  - *This plan is pending the FDA conducting an independent evaluation of the safety and effectiveness of the 3rd dose of the Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines and the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunizations practices issuing booster dose recommendations based on a thorough review of the evidence*
  - People will be eligible for their booster shots 8 months after receiving their second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine
  - Administration anticipates that vaccine boosters will likely be needed for J&J vaccine and expect more data on this in the coming weeks

<https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2021/08/18/1028798003/covid-19-booster-shots-roll-out-september-moderna-pfizer>

### **Infection Prevention Medical Director**

- The LA Times had an article that gave the specific data about individuals who had been vaccinated in LA County – that includes 5.1 million individuals out of the people that have been fully vaccinated only 0.53% have tested positive – 27,000. In the greater context there are 10 million people that live in LA County.
- 0.014% of the fully vaccinated have been hospitalized and 0.0013% or 68 people/ 5.1 million people have died of COVID after being fully vaccinated. Most of the deaths have been in people who were seriously ill with other conditions or had compromised immune systems. This shows us that the vaccines in people who have been fully vaccinated are working extremely well.
- On Monday the FDA approved the Pfizer vaccine. The vaccine has met all of the approvals. This elevates the vaccine to be used in different ways. It will allow individuals to mandate the vaccine and will get us on the way to trying to obtain herd immunity. There are people who are unvaccinated who will unfortunately get COVID, but they will also get antibodies.
- The ICUs are filling up, including Pediatric ICUs. We need to try to protect our young ones as much as we can. With the mandates, there will be more people coming to us requesting exemptions to vaccines or exemptions so that children do not have to wear masks. We need to ensure that we are doing the right thing for our patients. Dr. Brown has provided an update on the Health Services Huddle with specific information on who can obtain an exemption for the vaccine and who can obtain an exemption for masking. The contraindications are a serious anaphylactic reaction to a prior vaccine of the same type or to one of the vaccine components, or having an immediate reaction after receiving the vaccine.

Patient and Staff may request exemptions related to mask wearing and COVID vaccines. See below.

For masks CDC recognizes there are specific instances when wearing a mask may not be feasible. In these instances, consider [adaptations and alternatives](#).

The following categories of people are exempt from the requirement to wear a mask:

- A child under the age of 2 years;
- A person with a disability who cannot wear a mask, or cannot safely wear a mask, for reasons related to the disability;
- A person for whom wearing a mask would create a risk to workplace health, safety, or job duty as determined by the [workplace risk assessment external icon](#).

For COVID vaccines CDC considers a history of the following to be a contraindication to vaccination with COVID-19 vaccines:

- Severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a component of the COVID-19 vaccine
- Immediate allergic reaction (within 4 hours) of any severity to a previous dose or known (diagnosed) allergy to a component of the vaccine
- Please refer to: [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#) with further questions.

### **Human Resources**

- COVID testing for not fully vaccinated staff is now a state requirement for healthcare workers. Employees who are not fully vaccinated (meaning 2 weeks after the second shot of a 2-shot series or 2 weeks after the first shot of a one-shot series) must be tested twice a week with the rapid antigen test. The clinics, PACE centers, MSO, and the Patient Service Center should be conducting their own tests. [Corporate employees were instructed to contact Jose Rodriguez ([josrodriguez@altamed.org](mailto:josrodriguez@altamed.org)) or 323-765-6148 to schedule.
- This marks week 2 of the Employee & Provider engagement surveys. We ended the first week strong and reached 65% participation in the employee survey and 56% in the provider survey. The detailed participation reports with every unit's response rates are now posted and available for all leaders on the HR Business Services SharePoint page. Here is the [link](#). Our goal is to reach 85% participation by August 30. Please continue to encourage your team to provide their feedback and complete the survey by Sept. 7.
- Q3 Mandatory training, which includes the Compliance training modules, is due on September 10. Please make sure your employees are completing this by the deadline.