



COVID-19 Huddle Notes for November 2, 2021

¡Ándale! ¿Qué Esperas? partners with the California Department of Education to vaccinate children ages 5-11

Last Wednesday, AltaMed's ¡Ándale! ¿Qué Esperas? Statewide vaccination campaign held a press conference at the South Gate clinic with Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond. At the press conference, AltaMed and Superintendent Thurmond announced the partnership between the California Department of Education and AltaMed's ¡Ándale! ¿Qué Esperas? Campaign to vaccinate children ages 5-11 across the state.

Superintendent Thurmond mentioned the state was expecting to have 400 vaccination sites at schools across California. He also received his booster shot at the South Gate clinic. You can view the livestream of the press conference on ¡Ándale! ¿Qué Esperas? Facebook page [here](#).

If you have any questions about the ¡Ándale! ¿Qué Esperas? Campaign please contact Lizette Escobedo, AVP of Civic Engagement and Advocacy at lescobedo@altamed.org

Build Back Better Act, Community Health Center Funding

- The Build Back Better Act is President Biden's domestic agenda framework. Overall, the new [Build Back Better framework](#) drastically reduces the spending bill from \$3.75 T to \$1.75T.
- The initial \$3.5T proposed package included \$10B for infrastructure and \$6.3B for primary care workforce programs, but we have seen a dramatic cut to these numbers in the new [Build Back Better Act](#).
- **The following are highlights of interest to health centers from the new Build Back Better Act:**
 - \$1 billion for health center capital (a reduction from \$10 billion)
 - \$3.37 billion for Teaching Health Center GME
 - \$650 million for the National Health Service Corps
 - \$200 million for Nurse Corps
 - Expansion of Medicare to cover hearing benefits (but not vision or dental, which included in the initial bill)
 - **Significant strengthening of Medicaid and ACA benefits, including:**
 - Continuation of the expanded ACA tax credits through 2025;
 - Permanent expansion of the CHIP program;
 - Expanded investments in outreach and enrollment;
 - 12 months continuous Medicaid coverage for pregnant/postpartum individuals;
 - And 1 year of continuous Medicaid coverage for children.
- **Please find a summary of other items included in the bill [here](#).**

The AltaMed Government Relations team has continuously met with Members of Congress staff to urge them to support the initial funding of \$10B for infrastructure and \$6.3B for primary care workforce.

Please contact Olivia Lee, Manager of Legislative and Advocacy Affairs, at olilee@altamed.org if you have any questions.

Top News Lines

Federal

- The FDA on Friday authorized the Pfizer low-dose COVID-19 vaccine for children 5 to 11. With FDA clearance, up to 28 million more children could be eligible for the kid size doses, one-third the size given to teens and adults. Today, advisors to the CDC will make more detailed recommendations on which children should be vaccinated.
https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2021-10-29/fda-paves-way-for-pfizer-covid-19-vaccinations-in-young-kids?utm_id=40877&sfmc_id=493740
- According to the White House, the federal COVID-19 vaccine distribution program for children ages 5 to 11 will be fully up and running next week if the CDC approves Pfizer doses for that age group. The Biden administration has already begun transferring 15 million vaccine doses from Pfizer to pediatricians' offices, pharmacies, hospitals, and health centers.
<https://www.cnn.com/2021/11/01/kids-covid-vaccine-program-fully-up-and-running-next-week-white-house.html>

State

- On that same note, California health officials intend to offer doses to 3.5 million children in the age group statewide as soon as the end of this week if all the approvals on the federal level take place.
https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-10-27/california-plans-ambitious-effort-to-vaccinate-young-children?utm_id=40585&sfmc_id=493740

Local

- On November 8, the City of Los Angeles vaccine mandates will go into effect, requiring patrons to show evidence of vaccination to enter restaurants, bars, coffee shops, gyms, nail salons, and barbershops along with movie theaters and shopping malls. This is after the LA City Council passed the new mandate in early October.
<https://www.dailynews.com/2021/10/30/la-city-vaccine-mandates-kick-in-this-week-spurring-worry-over-extra-work-confusion-for-businesses/>

Medical Director of Infection Prevention

1. The last time to qualify for the campaign for employees was October 31. We are tabulating our figures so that we can announce our drawing winners in the next week or two. If you have not received your flu vaccine it is still really important to get your flu vaccines. Please make sure you contact your employee health lead at your site, or go to location of choice to get your flu vaccine.
2. COVID vaccine for children 5-11 years old has been approved by the FDA and it is going to be discussed by the CDC this week. If all goes well they will start to arrive next week and in the process of getting everything to begin vaccinating children starting November 11. We will be will begin vaccinating children



5-11 years old at our Anaheim, Goodrich, CHLA and Westlake pediatrics location. As we see the demand and expansion we will continue to expand to other sites after that.

3. There has been a lot of questions regarding staff members wanting to get their Moderna, Pfizer, or Johnson and Johnson booster. Standing orders were signed last week, sent out and distributed to all the nurse leaders or Employee Health Leads by Stacy Decario the Director of vaccines. Now that we have those standing orders and everyone has had a chance to review them and the documents that she sent out, our Employee Health Leads at our sites are able to administer the COVID vaccine similar to how they administer flu vaccines to our staff. If you are six months out from your Pfizer or Moderna vaccine series or two months out from your Johnson and Johnson vaccine series you are qualified to get your booster. As a reminder they have to go into the Employee Health side of the electronic medical record, unless you are an AltaMed patient and you want to schedule an appointment as a patient. If there is no vaccine at your site or they do not have the vaccine that you want to get for your booster at your site then your Employee Health lead at your site can schedule you to get your vaccine at the Anaheim COVID vaccine employee health schedule, Goodrich COVID vaccine employee health schedule or Commerce Pharmacy COVID vaccine employee health schedule. Goodrich is primarily giving Pfizer vaccines, Commerce is primarily giving out Moderna vaccines and Anaheim has both vaccines on site.
4. If you are at corporate or another non clinical location please reach out to Employee Health to schedule an appointment at one of those sites. AltaMed recommends that you get your booster on a Friday afternoon so that so that you are not scheduled the next day in case you need to take some time to rest at home.
5. Our communications team will be sending all of this information out just so that you have it in writing and we have also updated all of our documents. There is a new emergency use authorization, please make sure that we are giving out the newest emergency use authorization to our employees. The communications team developed a *What to Expect after Your Vaccine* which is helpful and can be ordered for the employee health packets. If you have any further questions, you can always reach out to Dr. Brown or the Communications Department.

Human Resources

We'd like to start off by reminding everyone the Flu Vaccine is still available to all employees that wish to receive it. We are entering the time of the year that is considered the annual "Flu Season" where flu viruses are most prevalent. We encourage all employees to receive the vaccine. The Flu Vaccine is available by **appointment only** and there are 2 ways to go about booking your appointment.

1. The first is by booking an appointment with our Employee Health Department located in the 2035 Camfield Avenue building. You may contact Employee Health by phone at 323-765-6153 or by email at employeehealth@altamed.org. Appointments are available Monday through Friday.
2. You can also book an appointment at the AltaMed Medical site of your choice by contacting the site directly and asking to speak with the Employee Health lead. The



contact information for each one of our AltaMed sites can be located via the Phone Directory located in Town Square.

Please note that employees that submit their proof of vaccination to the Employee Health Department will be rewarded with 200 vitality points.

Another friendly reminder the Quarter 4 compliance training launched last month. There has been great participation thus far and wish to continue by encouraging all employees to complete their training as soon as feasibly possible. There are 4 days left (including today) for employees to complete their trainings with the opportunity to receive 25 recognition points which can be used to redeem prizes. The final due date for completion of the Q4 compliance training is December 3rd.

Lastly, AltaMed's annual Open Enrollment period is finally here. It began yesterday November 1st and will run through Friday November 19th. We encourage all employees to visit PlanSource, our benefits enrollment system, to review their benefits and make any necessary changes for themselves and their dependents. I would like to note, YESTERDAY we did encounter an unexpected technical issue which prevented employees from making any changes to their benefits. I'd like to inform all, this issue has been resolved. Live webinars will be available weekly for the duration of Open Enrollment, hosted by myself and other members of our Benefits Team, where we speak on all of our current benefit offerings and any changes that will take place for the new plan year. We encourage all employees to register to at least one of our sessions, as it is important to remain well informed. You will find the registration links to these Webinars on the home page of TownSquare, where we have a splash tile solely dedicated to Open Enrollment.