

COVID-19 Huddle Message for April 19, 2022

CE Messaging

¡Ándale! ¿Qué Esperas? Campaign Update

As of April 2022 the [¡Ándale! ¿Qué Esperas? Campaign](#) partners have hired a total of 123 Community Health Workers, reached 6.5 million people via direct community outreach, and generated over 2.8 billion impressions via earned and paid media efforts. Since the inception of the campaign in August, collectively the campaign has scheduled and/or administered over 100,000 vaccinations!

¡Ándale! ¿Qué Esperas? Campaign materials are available for staff and patients; this includes T-shirts for your team. Please reach out to Leslie Hernandez, Civic Engagement Coordinator, at leshernandez@altamed.org to request campaign materials for your team. Material requests will be based on availability and the best will be done to accommodate all requests. Thank you for your continued support!

Top News Lines

Federal

- A federal judge in Florida on Monday struck down the CDC's mask mandate for travel on planes, trains and buses. According to the judge, the CDC exceeded its statutory authority with the order. The CDC had recently extended the order for 15 days, through May 3.
- With that ruling, United Airlines, Alaska Airlines, American Airlines, Southwest Airlines, Delta Air Lines and JetBlue Airways all announced that masks would be optional for both passengers and employees as well as in airports. Amtrak also announced that it would make masks optional for its guests and train employees.
- White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Monday the Biden administration still recommends that individuals wear masks on public transit after a judge struck down the federal mask mandate for travel on planes, trains and buses.
<https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/3271907-judge-strikes-down-cdc-mask-mandate-for-travel/>
<https://thehill.com/news/3272480-multiple-airlines-amtrak-to-drop-mask-requirements/>
<https://thehill.com/news/administration/3272152-white-house-urges-travelers-to-keep-wearing-masks-after-disappointing-ruling/>
- The White House yesterday announced it would co-host a global COVID-19 summit in May. The summit, scheduled to be held virtually on May 12, will be co-hosted by the United States, Belize, Germany, Indonesia and Senegal.
<https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/3271757-white-house-announces-global-covid-19-summit-in-may/>
- Pfizer and BioNTech said Thursday that a third dose of their COVID-19 vaccine in children ages 5-11 produced a high immune response, and that they will apply for authorization for a booster dose in the age group soon. Pfizer said in a news release that a third dose of the vaccine in those 5-11 produced a 36-fold increase in levels of neutralizing antibodies against the omicron variant.

<https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/overnights/3269188-health-care-pfizer-says-it-will-apply-soon-for-kids-booster-shot/>

- The FDA announced on Thursday it had authorized the first test to detect COVID-19 through breath for emergency use. The InspecTR COVID-19 Breathalyzer is able to identify five volatile organic compounds tied to the coronavirus in a person's breath. <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/3269122-fda-approves-first-covid-19-breath-test-for-emergency-use/>

State

- California announce it will delay its COVID vaccine mandate for schoolkids until at least summer of 2023. Governor Newsom had estimated the mandate would take effect for the start of the 2022-2023 school year. But federal regulators have authorized use of the coronavirus vaccine for children as young as 5 in an emergency, it has still not given final approval to anyone younger than 16. <https://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2022/04/15/california-schools-covid-vaccine-mandate/>
- A bill by State Senator Glazer aims to boost tax renter credit for the first time in 40 years. The bill, SB 843, would increase that credit to \$500 for single filers and \$1,000 for single parents and couples filing jointly. It would also make the credit refundable and adjust it annually for inflation. Currently, it's nonrefundable; meaning it can reduce the amount a renter owes on their taxes, but it doesn't add to their refund. <https://www.kqed.org/news/11911256/california-bill-would-boost-renter-tax-credit-for-first-time-in-40-years>

Infection Prevention Message

The World Health Organization (WHO) continues to describe our COVID-19 situation as a pandemic given its global uncontrolled spread and ability to cause severe disease.

Cases of COVID-19 have risen in the U.S., especially in North East cities; however, hospitalizations have yet to increase.

Mask mandate for public transportation was struck down and airlines have taken away requirements, but mainly for ease of not having to enforce the mask mandate. *At AltaMed, the mask-wearing mandate is still in effect.*

California has updated the quarantine guidelines to say that if a community member has close contact with someone with COVID-19, they do not need to quarantine, but should watch for symptoms. They need to test immediately and around day 3-5 after exposure. They should also wear a mask at all times while around others, especially indoors.

We continue to recommend that people protect themselves with boosters and masks while indoors especially in close spaces, like public transportation and in airplanes, to prevent a COVID-19 infection, even if it is mild.

Human Resources Reminders

We have a couple of reminders today regarding the booster mandate. The deadline to be boosted and send in your documentation is fast approaching. Please remember to send in your documentation so that Human Resources can account for it and remove your name from our follow up list.

The deadline to be boosted is May, 1, 2022. Please keep in mind that if you are not boosted by May 1, 2022 you will be separated from AltaMed effective May 2, 2022. There will be booster clinics at various locations in order to help employees to get boosted prior to the deadline. Location dates and times are forthcoming.

Should you have questions please do not hesitate to contact Merita Ellison in Employee Health or your Human Resources Business Partner.