

COVID-19 Huddle Notes 4/7/2021

Government Relations

Upcoming Redistricting Efforts

Our Civic Engagement Team would like to remind everyone of the upcoming Redistricting efforts that we will be launching at AltaMed.

For those unfamiliar with Redistricting, redistricting occurs after the decennial Census, and it is the process of drawing new boundaries depending on the number of population for each state. In California, an independent citizen-led commission does redistricting and draws the maps depending on the feedback it receives from the communities. We encourage everyone that once we begin our outreach, to let your staff and patients know in order to raise our communities voices and have them participate in this democratic process.

Our Civic Engagement Team will be sharing new updates on redistricting as they become available.

Top News Lines

Federal

- President Biden announced yesterday that he is moving up the deadline for states to open up COVID-19 vaccinations to all everyone 18 and older to April 19th. By that date, 90 percent of all Americans will also be within 5 miles of a vaccination site. More info [here](#).
- President Biden also announced that the U.S. administered 150 million doses in his first 75 days in office. This pace would put the administration on track to surpassing the previously stated goal of 200 million doses in President Biden's first 100 days.
 - The U.S. is administering an average of 3 million shots per day and 20 million a week.
 - The U.S. is the first country to vaccinate over 62 million people.
 - More than 75 percent of people over the age of 65 have received a vaccine. Seniors account for 80 percent of all COVID-19 deaths.
 - Since the U.S. is expected to have an excess of vaccines by summer, the U.S. will help other countries. More info [here](#).
- The CDC said Friday that fully vaccinated Americans can resume domestic and overseas travel as long as they wear masks in public and follow modifications. Individuals do not need to get a COVID-19 test before or after domestic travel and do not need to quarantine upon return. Fully vaccinated Americans do not need a COVID-19 test for international travel unless required by the country they are traveling to. More info [here](#).
- Secretary of State Antony Blinken announced the appointment of Gayle Smith as the coordinator of the United States' global COVID response and health security. Smith served as an administrator for the U.S. Agency for International Development under former President Obama. More info [here](#).
- The FDA announced last Thursday that Moderna could put up to 50 percent more doses of vaccine in each vial, up to 15 doses, a change that will likely allow the company to speed up the pace of shipments. More info [here](#).

State

- Governor Newsom announced yesterday that the state would lift its tiered system of risk and restriction, by June 15, if vaccine supply is sufficient and hospitalizations are low. The state will continue to monitor COVID-19 metrics and may revisit the June 15th date if the numbers are not favorable. More info [here](#).
- Gov. Newsom also announced that California has administered more than 20 million vaccinations with over 70% of the 65 and above population has received at least one dose and over 40% of the 16 and above population has received at least one dose. In addition, over 4 million vaccines have been administered in the hardest hit communities. More info [here](#).
- Californians 16 and older are becoming eligible for COVID-19 vaccines this week as counties and health systems across the state expand eligibility ahead of schedule. Officials in Riverside and Kern counties made the surprise announcement Monday, as did UC Davis Health in Sacramento. San Bernardino County followed suit with its own announcement Tuesday. More info [here](#).
- Thirteen California counties with a combined population of more than 17 million residents advanced to less restrictive tiers within the state's reopening framework, including Los Angeles and Orange counties. More info [here](#).
- The double mutant coronavirus variant has been found in California by scientists at Stanford University. More info [here](#).
- California as of yesterday had 3.5 million COVID-19 confirmed cases. Over 57 thousand COVID related deaths, and 6.3 million people fully vaccinated. The majority of the confirmed cases are in younger population between 18 to 49. More info [here](#).

Local

LA County

- As of Monday, LA County moved into the Orange Tier. Under the orange tier restaurants, movie theaters and churches will be allowed to increase their capacity from 25% to 50%. Gyms would be able to expand to 25% capacity. More info [here](#).
- Effective as of Monday, LA County also updated their travel advisory. The county urges everyone to avoid non essential travel. Travelers who are not fully vaccinated must quarantine for seven full days after travel if they receive a negative COVID-19 test taken three to five days after their arrival. If a traveler does not get tested after they arrive in LA County, they must quarantine for a full 10 days. More info [here](#).
- A mobile vaccine clinic will be at the Southeast Rio Vista YMCA in the City of Maywood starting today Wednesday to Saturday, April 10th. This mobile clinic is brought by Supervisor Hilda Solis in partnership with the SELA Collaborative to increase the vaccination rate of Southeast Los Angeles residents. More info [here](#).
- L.A. County Supervisors on Tuesday launched an initiative to explore how to better combat hate crimes in the county. The Supervisors approved the creation of a work group that will make specific recommendations next month and determine the feasibility of launching the L.A. County Equity and Diversity Fund. More info [here](#).

Orange County

- Similar to LA County, Orange County moved into the Orange tier of the state's reopening plan. More info [here](#).
- The CA Department of Public Health announced that 1.6 million vaccines have been administered in Orange County as of Monday. More info [here](#).

Human Resources

- **COVID-19 Vaccine Pins Available to Employees and Patients**
AltaMed employees and patients who have been vaccinated will receive a COVID-19 Vaccinated pin as a gift. Pins will be distributed to clinics starting this week.
Again, thank you to our staff for their hard work and commitment to our patients and communities throughout the pandemic. We appreciate each of you and the effort you've put forth.
- Q2 Mandatory training has been assigned to all employees this week. Complete within the first month to receive the rewards and recognition points, and please be sure to remind staff to complete by the June 4 deadline.
- Vaccines continue to be offered to employees every Thursday in Employee Health. Links will be included in the Wednesday COVID alert. There is also a link to decline the vaccine. If you have been vaccinated elsewhere, please email proof to Employeehealth@altamed.org so we can update your records in Epic.