

COVID-19 Huddle Message for April 26, 2022

CE Messaging – AltaMed Partners Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk & Orange County Registrar of Voters to Host Vote Centers at AltaMed clinics

For the upcoming June Primary Election, AltaMed will continue their partnership with the Los Angeles County Clerk Registrar-Recorder to host 13 Flex Vote Centers and 2 Mobile Vote Centers at multiple AltaMed locations from Tuesday May 31 to Monday June 6 from 8AM to 5PM.

For the first time ever and in partnership with the Orange County Registrar of Voters, AltaMed will be hosting a Pop-Up Mobile Vote Center in Orange County. The Pop-Up Mobile Vote Center will take place on Friday, June 3 for the upcoming June Primary Election. Community members will be able to vote at AltaMed's Santa Ana Bristol location from 8AM to 5PM.

AltaMed will continue to host a ballot drop box for Orange County voters at our Santa Ana - Main clinic. This ballot drop box will be available for use from May 10 to June 7.

If you would like to volunteer at a Vote Center, feel free to reach out to Leslie Hernandez, Civic Engagement Coordinator, at leshernandez@altamed.org. Training will be provided to those interested.

Top News Lines.

Federal

- The U.S Department of Justice (DOJ) said it would appeal a ruling striking down the mask mandate for public transportation after the CDC requested its appeal. The CDC order requiring masks for travelers had been set to last until May 3, when many experts expected it to expire anyway.
<https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/3275003-doj-appeals-mask-ruling-following-cdc-request/>
- According to the CDC, COVID-19 was the third leading cause of death in the United States in 2021. With 415,000 COVID-19 deaths, it was the leading cause of death behind heart disease at 693,000 and cancer at 605,000. This is the second year in a row that COVID-19 is the third-leading cause of death in the country.
<https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/3460136-covid-19-was-third-leading-cause-of-death-in-us-last-year-cdc/>
- The White House on Tuesday unveiled new steps aimed at making highly effective COVID-19 treatment pills from Pfizer more widely available to save more lives. To boost availability, the administration announced Tuesday morning that the number of sites where the pills are available would soon increase from 20,000 to 30,000, and that it will work with pharmacies to increase that number to 40,000 "over the coming weeks." On that note, the White House is also warning Congress to act urgently, as the congressional stalemate over COVID funding has forced the federal government to curtail free treatment for the uninsured and to ration monoclonal antibody supplies.

<https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/3463113-white-house-unveils-new-push-to-increase-availability-of-covid-19-treatment-pills/>
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- On Thursday, the chief medical advisor for President Biden, Dr. Anthony Fauci, said that a COVID-19 vaccine for children under five might not be approved for emergency use until June. One of the main reasons is because vaccine makers Moderna and Pfizer were creating slightly different products, which required additional studies.
<https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/3459365-fauci-says-vaccine-approval-for-those-under-5-likely-not-until-june/>
- The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has announced it will extend COVID-19 vaccine requirements for migrants entering the U.S at the Mexican and Canadian borders. Migrants who travel to the U.S. borders are still required to verbally attest to their current COVID-19 vaccination status, present proof of their vaccination status and valid documents required by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.
<https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/3275482-dhs-extends-vaccine-requirements-for-entry-at-mexico-canada-borders/>

State

- The Newsom Administration has ordered the closure of its central COVID-19 testing laboratory, cutting short a controversial no-bid contract worth up to \$1.7 billion with health care giant PerkinElmer. The California Department of Public Health notified the company that it would terminate the contract in Mid-May.
<https://www.caprado.org/articles/2022/04/20/california-will-close-its-central-covid-19-lab-cancel-17-billion-contract-with-perkinelmer/>
- In June, the U.S. Supreme Court is expected to dramatically scale back, or even end, the constitutional right to abortion. Because of that - California abortion rights groups, providers and Democratic lawmakers are all getting ready for a potential influx of out-of-state women by building new facilities closer to transit hubs and training more staff; introducing abortion rights bills through the Legislature that could expand the number of providers, provide financial assistance to women traveling to California to terminate their pregnancies, and legally protect the doctors who treat them.
<https://calmatters.org/politics/2022/04/california-abortion-rights/>

Local

- The LA County Department of Public Health said on Thursday that the county will continue to require masking on public transportation systems, despite of the federal mask mandate on transportation systems being lifted by a federal judge in Florida. The department noted that it is issuing a health order to say that masking will be required in indoor transportation hubs such as bus and airport terminals and on all public transportation, including ride-shares, trains and buses, within Los Angeles County.

<https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/3459302-la-county-to-keep-requiring-masks-on-public-transit-after-ruling-on-federal-mandate/>

Infection Prevention

- May 1 is our deadline to get your first booster for COVID-19. For all those individuals who had their first vaccine series more than six months ago, you are due for a booster.
 - Employee Health has been holding booster vaccine events at various locations:

Date	Time	Location	Room	Address	City
Thursday 4/21/2022	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Anaheim Clinic Anaheim	Nurse Clinic Room 1st Floor, Urgent Care	1325 N. Anaheim Blvd	Anaheim
Monday 4/25/2022	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Montebello MSO	Training Room	1401 N Montebello Blvd	Montebello
Tuesday 4/26/2022	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	South Gate Clinic	Conference Room	8627 Atlantic Ave	South Gate
Wednesday 4/27/2022	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Santa Ana Main	Break Room	1400 N. Main St	Santa Ana
Thursday 4/28/2022	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	CHLA	Treatment Room 2	4650 W. Sunset Blvd	Los Angeles
Friday 4/29/2022	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	AMU	Multipurpose Room	2035 Camfield Ave	Commerce

- California has enacted a health officer order and booster mandate for all health care workers.
- Boosters are necessary as antibodies and immunity can wane after about six months after initial vaccination.
- In the future, they may determine that three vaccines are in fact necessary as the primary series.
- During our last Omicron surge, many people who were unboosted had breakthrough infections and those that were older or had other medical conditions were at risk of more severe disease.
- Boosters also protect the people around you in case you have a breakthrough infection. There is a lower chance of transmitting COVID-19 to others if you are boosted.