

COVID-19 Huddle Notes 8/10/21

Government Relations

Upcoming Redistricting Public Input Meeting for Los Angeles County

- On Thursday, the California Redistricting Commission will be holding a public input meeting to hear about the communities of interest in LA County.
- There will be Spanish, Armenian, Farsi and Khmer interpretation for this meeting. The meeting will be from 3PM to 7PM or upon conclusion of business.
- If you would like to join you can visit www.wedrawthelinesca.org/meetings for more info.
- If you or your staff will be interested in participating in the redistricting process, or have questions on it, please contact Jonathan Flores, Civic Engagement Specialist, at jonaflor@altamed.org

National Health Center Week (August 9-14)

- We are want to wish everyone a happy National Health Center Week!
- The theme this year is: Community Health Centers – The Chemistry for Strong Communities.
- Please be on the lookout for messages from our team today that will provide an opportunity for each of you to engage with us.
- In honor of NHCW, our Government Relations team will hold a video contest open to all AltaMed employees. Participants will be eligible to win one of five \$100 gift cards in our contest raffle. In addition, the first 50 participants will receive 25 employee recognition points.
- Participation Rules
 - Record a short video (30 seconds or less) that highlights the impact that health centers and their workforce have made during the COVID-19 pandemic. You may share a personal story, record a video with multiple staff, and/or share how your unique role supports AltaMed's mission.
 - Submit your video to Government Relations by noon on Friday, August 13.
 - Raffle winners will be announced at the end of the week. Some videos may be featured on AltaMed's social media channels.
 - For more information, contact Gaston Lassalle, Policy Analyst.

Top News Lines

CA Healthcare Workers Vaccination Requirement

- Late last week, California announced it is requiring health care workers statewide to be vaccinated against COVID-19.
- The new mandate applies to employees in hospitals, clinics, doctor's offices, PACE facilities and most other healthcare settings.
- ***Like all other healthcare organizations in California, AltaMed will comply with the state's Order to have all employees vaccinated no later than September 30, 2021. Please be on the***

lookout for communications from your leaders for more information.

<https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2021/08/06/1025360746/california-vaccine-mandate-health-care-workers>

Infection Prevention Medical Director

- AltaMed is in the process of becoming compliant with the Health Officer Order.
- The policy has been revised and it will be disseminated to Department leaders so that they may share with their teams.
- Many schools are returning back into session. This Fall, many students will have the option of going back to school in person. The CDC has recommended that those who can be vaccinated should be vaccinated.
- Parents have talked about the fear of sending their kids back to school. It is important to reinforce the safety measures before they go back to school. It is important to talk to your friends and family, about practicing safe mask wearing with kids. If they are going to be using a surgical mask, it should be one that fits their face, if a cloth mask it should have the 3 layers.
- It is important to reinforce hand hygiene as well. There are many illnesses that are spread on our hands, so it is important to go over techniques with your friends. Ensure that they rinse their hands, provide them with a hand sanitizer that they can clip to their backpack, it is important that they rub it into their hands until it is dry. Dr. Brown's son will apply the hand sanitizer and then wipe it off on his clothes – she will continue to reinforce how to use it properly. It is important to get to know what your child's school's safety measures are. It is likely that most of the time kids will get sick with something non-COVID related, but it is important to keep everyone safe.
- We should be vaccinating our kids. Although they can typically get a mild infection, there are those that can have a much more severe illness. It is important that we try to keep everyone as safe as possible. Dr. Brown encourages everyone to vaccinate their kids whenever possible.

Human Resources

- As mentioned, the state has mandated that healthcare workers who are not fully vaccinated must be regularly tested starting August 23. PACE is already testing its staff, so Employee Health is in the process of training the Employee Health Leads at the clinics, the MSO, and the Patient Service Center to perform the testing for their staff. We are planning to begin twice a week rapid antigen testing of non-vaccinated employees on August 18, a few days ahead of the deadline by the state to implement.
- Employees who Employee Health shows as declining the vaccine or not having vaccination information on file were contacted by Employee Health last week. If you or someone on your team received this email but have been vaccinated, please email proof of vaccination to Employee Health at employeehealth@altamed.org. If they are on the list, they are subject to testing.

- Employees who have not been vaccinated but want to get a COVID vaccine should contact Employee Health (Employeehealth@altamed.org) or 323-765-6153 to schedule an appointment. Remember, if you've previously declined, you can change your mind at any time and schedule an appointment.
- The 2021 Employee and Provider Engagement Survey launches on August 16 and closes on September 7. By participating in the survey, we can all help shape the future of AltaMed, while improving own work experience. Feedback will be compiled and used to guide further positive changes across our organization. All leaders should commit to assisting and encouraging their team members to complete the survey before September 7. We need everyone to be heard. Following the survey, managers will have access to user-friendly, online results reports. Every manager will then review, analyze, and engage their teams in creating an action plan based on these results. On August 16, regular full-time and part-time employees hired by July 26, 2021 will receive an email from Press Ganey with the survey link. We encourage you to complete the survey by August 20 for a chance to win a raffle prize drawing.