

COVID-19 Weekly Huddle 4/21/21

Announcement: The weekly huddle will move Tuesdays at 7:45am starting next week!

Government Relations

Derick Chauvin Verdict Announced

After three weeks of testimony, the trial of former Minneapolis police officer—Derek Chauvin charged with the killing of George Floyd ended quickly; with just over 10 hours of jury deliberations.

The verdict announced was guilty on all three counts.

After the verdict, President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris held a press conference. The president noted the verdict could “a giant step forward” for the nation in the fight against systemic racism,” but declared it was not enough, while VP Harris stated: “A measure of justice is not the same as equal justice.” Biden and Harris also called upon Congress to act swiftly to address policing reform.

The conviction does not put an end to the highly charged case, however, as three other officers face trial later this year accused of aiding and abetting murder and manslaughter.

We will continue to monitor this activity and any actions or protests that may occur in our service area, however if you see or hear of any activity of impact to AltaMed, please inform Charles Lomboy on our Facilities team.

CE Huddle Message:

Neighborhood Council Elections Happening Now!

The Civic Engagement team would like to remind you of the current neighborhood council elections that are happening now. Neighborhood councils form together the grassroots level of the Los Angeles City government. Anyone can run and vote during the neighborhood council elections. Neighborhood councils advocate for hyper local issues including homelessness, housing, land use, emergency use, safety, among others.

If you or your staff live in the City of Los Angeles, please visit empowerla.org/elections to find out when you can request a vote-by-mail ballot to participate in your local neighborhood council elections happening now.

Top News Lines

Federal

- According to Dr. Fauci, a decision about whether to resume the Johnson & Johnson vaccine should come this Friday, when an expert panel advising the CDC meets this Friday. More info [here](#).

- According to President Biden, everyone 16 years and older are now able to be vaccinated in the United States. More info [here](#).
- The State Department will increase the number of countries on the “Do Not Travel” list from 16 percent of the world to 80 percent amid the international surge in virus cases. More info [here](#).
- Albert Bourla, CEO of Pfizer, said it is likely those vaccinated with the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine will need a third shot sometime within 12 months after getting the initial two doses and will potentially need a new shot every year thereafter. More info [here](#).

State

- The California Legislature has passed a bill requiring some hotels and event centers to offer laid-off workers their jobs back. The bill sent to Governor Newsom on Thursday applies to employees who had their jobs at least six months before the pandemic started but lost their jobs due to coronavirus related reasons. More info [here](#).
- Governor Newsom on Thursday said that he fully expects all schools to reopen in the fall due to the recent COVID-19 case rates continually decreasing and the number of people vaccinated increasing. More info [here](#).

Local

LA County

- Los Angeles County Department of Public Health reported a daily test positivity rate of 0.9%, the lowest since the pandemic began more than a year ago. Although officials are encouraged by the decline in daily cases, they caution residents to be vigilant against new variants of the virus and continuing social distance protocols. More info [here](#).
- With the reopening of schools across LA County, health officials on Monday noted fewer staff are testing positive for COVID-19. The County is now considering making updates to its COVID-19 guidance for youth sports, as the five active COVID-19 outbreaks at schools are all associated with youth sports and not with attending classes. More info [here](#).
- On Monday, LA County Director of Public Health Dr. Barbara Ferrer announced new reduced rules on indoor events such as live concerts, meetings and private gatherings. More info [here](#).

Orange County

- Orange County and state health officials are gearing up to open more neighborhood vaccination clinics to hardest hit areas. This comes after the Latinx community has had

nearly 47% of Orange County's COVID-19 cases, 38% of deaths and has received 15% of the 2 million vaccines distributed. More info [here](#).

- Orange County will launch a pilot program to test out digital COVID-19 vaccine passports according to the Orange County Health Care Agency. Details are yet to be available as to how the digital passport would work to verify COVID-19 immunization status. More info [here](#).

Infection Prevention Medical Director

- The weekly huddle will move to 7:45am starting next Tuesday!
- Thank you for all your help with the COVID-19 vaccine efforts – and to all the administrative professionals.
- Currently the Johnson and Johnson vaccine is on hold. We are awaiting further guidance in terms of the use which we are expecting to receive by Friday. We will be following the guidance that the CDC gives.

Human Resources, Talent Management

- Reminder that you need to complete the Employee Handbook training module in your transcript in the Cornerstone Learning Management System, and there is also a second step to go to the Employee Handbook and acknowledge receipt. You can find the [Employee Handbook](#) on Town Square under the HR section.
- Vaccines continue to be offered on Thursdays in Employee Health. We are now over 80% vaccinated at AltaMed with at least one shot. Links to sign up or decline will be included in today's notes.
 - [Declination](#)
 - [April 22](#)
 - [April 29](#)
 - [May 13](#)

Happy Administrative Professionals' Day!