

Government Relations

October 21: AltaMed Offering Flex Vote Centers in LA County

There are 13 days left to vote in this General Election. California has seen a record turnout of over 3.7 million ballots returned. It is the one of the highest turnouts so far in the election across the country just second to Georgia. However, the Latino vote is falling extremely behind. If you already voted, Great! Please reach out to your team members and encourage them to vote to protect healthcare and our jobs.

The voter registration deadline to receive a vote-by-mail ballot already passed this Monday, October 19th, but you can still register to vote in person at any Vote Center location in Los Angeles or Orange County.

At AltaMed, we are collaborating with the Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder's office to bring Flex Vote Centers and Mobile Voting to our sites. These sites are open to staff, patients and community members to either cast their vote safely in person, drop-off their vote-by-mail ballot or register to vote on site. County election workers, as well as, AltaMed Government Relations staff will be able to help you out at these locations.

Flex Vote Center Schedule (will be sent out in the COVID huddle notes that is shared with everyone)

All Vote Centers and Mobile Voting hours are from 8AM to 5PM.

Monday, October 26th: AltaMed – East Los Angeles 1st Street and AltaMed Pico Passons

Tuesday, October 27th: AltaMed - Goodrich and AltaMed Corporate Headquarters

Wednesday, October 28th: AltaMed – South Gate and AltaMed – Boyle Heights

Thursday, October 29th: AltaMed – West Covina, AltaMed PACE – Huntington Park and AMU

Friday, October 30th: AltaMed PACE – South Los Angeles, AltaMed PACE – Covina and AltaMed PACE – East Los Angeles

Monday, November 2nd: AltaMed PACE – Downey, AltaMed PACE – Lynwood and AltaMed PACE – El Monte

Finally, we want to also share a reminder that in Orange County, we have an official Orange County ballot drop box at our Santa Ana Main clinic that is now opened and available for use until November 3rd.

To find official ballot drop box locations and vote centers most convenient to you please visit: caearlyvoting.sos.ca.gov

Stay safe. Vote early. Vote to protect healthcare.

Federal

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin will resume stimulus talks today, even though last evening's self-imposed deadline has come and gone. Pelosi said the sides are close to resolving a key sticking point over money for coronavirus testing and contact tracing. Other priorities the speaker has includes funds for state and local governments. But Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell still wants a leaner deal and says there may be Senate votes early this week on piecemeal issues like a stand-alone Paycheck Protection Program bill to help small businesses. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, however, warned the White House that getting behind a proposal with Dems before the election could badly divide Senate Republicans.

Per the Hill, State Health Officials Tell Congress They Need \$8.4B For COVID-19 Vaccination Effort. More info [here](#). Also, Dr. Fauci plays a key role in deciding when vaccine studies are done. More info [here](#).

[Coronavirus cases top 40M worldwide](#)

The number of coronavirus cases worldwide has surpassed 40 million, according to data from Johns Hopkins University. The world hit the new high-water mark amid a "second wave" that has built since August in Europe. Various European government officials have reintroduced restrictions and closures of businesses like bars and restaurants, CNBC noted.

[Far More Americans Have Died Of COVID Than Counted So Far, CDC Finds](#)

A CDC analysis of deaths in 2020 that exceed typical annual statistics finds that the number of fatalities due to COVID-19 is nearly 300,000 -- far higher than the confirmed tally of over 220,000.

[Covid-19 Cases Climbing In Almost Every State As U.S. Braces For Possible 'third Peak'](#)

Although Texas reported a "slight decrease" in cases over the 14-day period that ended Saturday, its news was better than elsewhere: 38 states, Washington, D.C., and Guam all recorded increases in cases over the last 14 days, and nine states have plateaued, according to NBC News tallies. Rhode Island, which, like Texas, has also had a net decrease, does not report data over the weekend, and Missouri is not reporting data because of a technology issue.

State

Vaccines Distribution

- The State will independently review vaccines prior to distribution
- Guiding principles for review:
 - Safety
 - Equity
 - Transparency
- In first phases, there likely will be limited supply (currently looking at Moderna and Pfizer)
- Prioritized for first phase:
 - Healthcare personnel likely treating patients with COVID-19
 - Healthcare personnel likely to be exposed to COVID-19
 - People at increased risk for severe illness or death from COVID-19

- High risk groups- elderly, essential worker, those with disabilities, racial ethnic minority groups (Latino, Black, and rural), incarcerated/detained
 - Other essential workers
 - Building on existing immunization infrastructure
 - Preparing for unknowns:
 - Supplies and distribution – needles/syringes; alcohol pads; bandages; masks; PPE
 - Storage requirements
Include: ultra-cold storage (-70 Celsius, dry ice); cold storage (-20 degrees Celsius dry ice)
 - Data Management – CAIR (CA Immunization Registry); CalReady; Notifications from state/local; working with privacy in mind
 - Community Education and Engagement – must get trust and confidence from the public on the vaccine for this to work efficiently and effectively
 - Note: Total number of vaccines for nation is 45 million (for planning purposes only)
Don't anticipate mass availability until 2021, when exactly is still unclear
- CA COVID-19 Approach – Prevention, Containment, and Treatment

Summary of COVID-19 Vaccination Plan submitted to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), [here](#). Full plan [here](#).

Note: A Drafting Guidelines Workgroup comprised of immunization, public health, ethicists, health care and academic experts will develop California-specific guidance for the prioritization and allocation of vaccines when supplies are limited. Also, a Community Advisory Vaccine Committee will provide input and feedback to the planning efforts and solve barriers of equitable vaccine implementation and decision-making.

CA Health and Human Service Secretary also announced guidelines to open stadiums and theme parks yesterday.

Local

Los Angeles County

- Los Angeles County remains in Tier 1/Purple Tier, the most restrictive tier, in the state's Blueprint for a Safer Economy. The County's level of community transmission is still too high to advance to the next tier.
- Public Health updated the Health Officer Order to align with State guidance on private gatherings, which allow limited private gatherings with three or fewer households.
 - All private gatherings must occur outdoors.
 - Attendees must wear a cloth face covering when they are together except when they are eating or drinking and keep at least six feet of physical distance.
 - Food must be served in single-serve disposable containers, and the duration of the gathering should be two hours or less.
 - It is recommended that if residents do gather with two other households that they do so with the same households each time, creating a quasi-bubble that can reduce the risk of spreading the virus to others.
 - A single household or living unit does not include institutional group living situations such as dormitories, fraternities, sororities, or residential care facilities. Nor does it

include commercial group living arrangements such as boarding houses, hotels or motels.

[More than 600,000 ballots in L.A. County already at registrar](#)

More than 662,000 ballots have been returned to the L.A. County Registrar just two weeks since more than 5.6 million ballots were sent to registered voters. That's nearly double the number of ballots that arrived at the L.A. County Registrar two days earlier, signaling the county — along with the state and the rest of the nation — could be on pace for an above average turnout.

Human Resources

- **Need Help Navigating Benefits?**
 - Our Benefits Team has posted helpful resources for you on Town Square. Information regarding our health plans, life assistance program, calendar of events and more are available [here](#). Resources related to COVID-19, including information on child care, protecting yourself and others, and coping with fears can also be found [here](#). For any information on the materials posted, please contact the Benefits Department at benefits@altamed.org or via phone at [\(323\) 720-5670](tel:(323)720-5670) option 0.
- **Open Enrollment Coming Soon!**
 - Save the Date. Open Enrollment is [starting on November 2, 2020](#), and ending on [November 20, 2020](#). This will be your annual opportunity to review, enroll in or make changes to your benefit plans including medical, dental, vision, life and more. You will also be able to add or drop coverage for eligible dependents. Changes made during Open Enrollment are effective [January 1, 2021](#). More information will be shared next week.
- **Financial Coaching through Unidos**
 - Employees can receive free financial coaching through Unidos. To take advantage, please email LiveWell@altamed.org with your name, phone number, and employee ID number. A representative will contact you to start the coaching. If you have any questions, you can contact Employee Wellness at LiveWell@altamed.org.

Alicia Popoff, AVP, Health Services Operations on behalf of Dr. Sherrill Brown

- The morning call on Friday, 10/23 will be cancelled. If you have any questions related to COVID-19, please feel free to reach out to Dr. Sherrill Brown or Darlene Dickens-Jeffers.
- Additionally, please feel free to submit any questions via the survey link, [click here](#)
- Please let us know whether the time for the daily huddles is value added. We want to make sure that you are receiving the content you need for your teams.
- The link to the COVID-19 huddle can be found here:
<https://goaltamed.webex.com/recording/service/sites/goaltamed/recording/playback/7292f58c437147b6ac414c1bddff123f>