COVID-19 Update for Skilled Nursing Facilities:

*The Omicron Variant, Boosters, Monoclonal Antibodies, Testing Updates, and More*

December 10, 2021

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Acute Communicable Disease Control Program
Disclosures

There is no commercial support for today’s webinar.

Neither the speakers nor planners for today’s webinar have disclosed any financial interests related to the content of the meeting.

This webinar is meant for skilled nursing facilities and is off the record. Reporters should log off now.
DISCLAIMER

• This is a rapidly evolving situation so the information being presented is current as of today (12/10/21), so we highly recommend that if you have questions after today you utilize the resources that we will review at the end of this presentation.
Presentation Agenda

- Local COVID-19 Trends
- Omicron Variant Update
- COVID-19 Monoclonal Antibodies in SNFs
- COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters & Additional Doses
- Updated COVID-19 Testing Requirements
  - Routine Screening Testing
  - Visitation
  - Point-of-care antigen test kits
- Holiday Guidance

- Q and A
Local COVID-19 Trends
National Daily Trends in COVID-19 Cases and Testing 7-day % Positivity

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/
State-wide testing 7-day percent positivity: 2.54% as of 12/06/2021.

https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/
County testing 7-day percent positivity: 1.08% as of 6:00pm 12/08/2021.
Cases in Los Angeles County SNF Staff and Residents Over Time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Total Cases in Staff at SNFs$^2$</th>
<th>Total Cases in Residents in SNFs$^2$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 23, 2021 - June 5, 2021$^1$</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 7, 2021 - June 20, 2021</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 21, 2021 - July 4, 2021</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 5, 2021 - July 18, 2021</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 19, 2021 - August 1, 2021</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2, 2021 - August 15, 2021</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 16, 2021 - August 29, 2021</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 30, 2021 - September 12, 2021</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 13, 2021 - September 26, 2021</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 27, 2021 - October 10, 2021</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 11, 2021 - October 24, 2021</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 25, 2021 - November 7, 2021</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 8, 2021 - November 21, 2021</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/data/reopening-dashboard.htm
Omicron Variant Update
Omicron Variant

- Identified in South Africa in November, now spreading throughout the US and the world.
- Important things to know:
  - Many genetic mutations in the spike protein (also target for vaccines)
  - Seems to be more transmissible
  - People who have been infected with COVID in the past are developing infections with Omicron
  - Lab experiments show potentially lower efficacy of vaccine vs Omicron
- Based on the above details, LACDPH recommends:
Most Commonly Identified Variants Among LAC Residents as a Percentage of Sequences Reported to Public Health as of December 4th, 2021

Specimen Collection Date (Week Ending)

covid19.lacounty.gov 12/9/2021
Omicron—what can we do?

• Don’t panic
• Vaccine with booster seems to be effective vs. Omicron
• Monoclonal antibodies are effective vs. Omicron (possibly less for Bam/Ete)
• Infection control interventions are effective (masking, environmental cleaning, etc)
• Tests (antigen and PCR) can identify Omicron
• Infections may not be as severe
  – S. Africa suggesting that patients are not as sick or likely to be hospitalized (but its early)
  – The T-cell response seems effective against Omicron, suggesting that hospitalization and death may be less severe.
COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters look to be effective vs. Omicron!
COVID-19 Monoclonal Antibodies in SNFs
Relative and absolute risk reduction of death and hospitalization

https://www.covid19treatmentguidelines.nih.gov/tables/table-3a/
Indications for treatment or prophylaxis with mAb

Medical conditions that increase risk of poor outcomes with COVID-19 (AIIa rec):
- Age >65
- Obesity (BMI>30)
- Diabetes
- Cardiovascular disease or hypertension
- Chronic lung diseases

Other conditions (BIII rec):
- Immunocompromising condition
- Obesity (BMI>25)
- Chronic kidney disease
- Sickle cell disease
- Neurodevelopmental disorder
- Pregnancy
- Medical technology-dependent (trach, vent, CPAP/BiPAP, etc)

The use of mAbs may be considered for patients with high-risk conditions and factors that are not listed in the EUAs.

CONCLUSION: Most if not all SNF residents who test positive or are exposed (e.g., during an outbreak) should be indicated for treatment/prophylaxis with mAb

mAb not indicated in these groups due to lack of benefit

- Hospitalized for COVID-19 (moderate or severe)
- Require O2 therapy due to COVID-19
- Chronic O2 who require increased O2 due to COVID-19.

### 3 EUA monoclonal antibody products

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>IV</th>
<th>IM</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bamlanivimab + Etesevimab</td>
<td>Treatment: AM 700mg + ETE 1400 mg IV together over 1 hour</td>
<td></td>
<td>1. Monitor during and for 1 hour after infusion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Drug-drug interactions unlikely</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3. AEs: hypersensitivity, nausea, dizziness, pruritus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Casirivimab + Imdevimab</td>
<td>Treatment &amp; Prophy: CAS 600mg + IMD 600mg IV over 1 hour</td>
<td>Treatment &amp; Prophy: CAS 600mg + IMD 600mg SQ in 4 (2.5mL) injections</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sotrovimab</td>
<td>Treatment: 500mg IV over 30 min</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>WHO Label</td>
<td>Pango Lineage</td>
<td>CDC Variant Class</td>
<td>Notable Mutations</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alpha</td>
<td>B.1.1.7</td>
<td>VBM</td>
<td>N501Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beta</td>
<td>B.1.351</td>
<td>VBM</td>
<td>K417N, E484K, N501Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gamma</td>
<td>P.1</td>
<td>VBM</td>
<td>K417T, E484K, N501Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delta</td>
<td>B.1.617.2, non-AY1/AY2</td>
<td>VOC</td>
<td>L452R, T478K</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Last Updated: October 19, 2021
When should I use these products?

• SNF or other LTCF outbreak
  – Treatment for those who test positive: start ASAP, <10 days of symptom onset
  – Post-exposure prophylaxis of those who are exposed

• How to get started:
  – MD order (medical director or treating MD)
Where to obtain mAb

• Where to get it:
  1) Your facility’s LTC Pharmacy
  2) EMS Agency: laemsadutyofficer@dhs.lacounty.gov
  3) Mobile provider for on-site administration (not LACDPH): Combat Covid-19 Team
     • Coverage area: Across Los Angeles County
     • Email: LTC@combatcovid19.com
     • Phone: 1-866-TREAT-19 (1-866-873-2819)
     • www.combatcovid19.com

     Hope Specialty Pharmacy
     • Coverage area: Across Los Angeles County
     • Email: DIRECTOR@HOPESP.COM
     • Phone: 800-557-5555
mAb Frequently Asked Questions

• Do SNFs need an exemption or special approval to provide monoclonal antibodies?
  – No. It is a medication just like any other medication a physician would prescribe.

• Is there a reporting requirement for use of monoclonal antibodies?
  – Yes, SNFs should report their utilization via NHSN.
COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters & Additional Doses
7-Day Cumulative Age-Adjusted Death Rates by Vaccination Status*
June 1 – November 13, 2021

*Excludes partially vaccinated (3% of deaths)

https://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/media-briefings.htm
Evidence for Booster Shots
November 23rd-29th, 2021

Case Rate*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccination Status</th>
<th>Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unvaccinated</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary vaccine series</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary vaccine series + booster</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The FDA today authorized boosters for youth 16-17 years old

*7-day cumulative, age-adjusted case rates per 100,000

covid19.lacounty.gov 12/9/2021
Getting vaccinated (and boosted) against COVID-19 is still the most effective tool against COVID-19 in nursing homes

- We know it is working because only 0.05% of fully vaccinated individuals in LA County have severe outcomes from COVID-19.

- True even with emerging variants.

- Continue to offer both primary doses AND boosters to all eligible residents and staff as vaccines.
Boosters are especially important for the nursing home population due to concerns over waning immunity.

- More hospitalizations prevented in those WITH a booster dose compared with fully vaccinated WITHOUT booster dose.
Boosters are especially important for the nursing home population due to concerns over waning immunity.
Immunocompromised individuals may need to receive a 4th dose

COVID-19 Vaccine/Booster Resources for LA County SNFs

**Goal:** All SNFs in LA County should administer booster doses to **100%** of fully vaccinated staff and residents who are eligible (≥6 mo for Pfizer/Moderna, ≥2 mo for J&J).

1) Continue to FIRST utilize your LTC pharmacy

2) If you have any issues with accessing vaccine from your LTC pharmacy (e.g., type is not available, delay), then either:
   - Fill out a referral form here:  
     [https://forms.office.com/g/TsThXceFX2](https://forms.office.com/g/TsThXceFX2); OR
   - Contact our SNF team at Public Health: 
     [COVID-LTC-Test@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:COVID-LTC-Test@ph.lacounty.gov)
Updated COVID-19 Testing Requirements
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER

ORDER OF THE HEALTH OFFICER FOR CONTROL OF COVID-19
Prevention of COVID-19 Transmission in Skilled Nursing Facilities
Revised Order Issued: December 3, 2021
Effective as of 12:01am on Wednesday, December 15, 2021

This Order supersedes the April 21, 2021 Prevention of COVID-19 Transmission in
Licensed Congregate Health Facilities Order, as it relates to Skilled Nursing Facilities.
This Order is in effect until rescinded by the Health Officer.

Recent Updates (Changes highlighted in yellow):
12/3/2021:

Due to the introduction of the newly identified Omicron variant of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in Los Angeles
County, California and other states and until more information is known about this variant’s
transmissibility, its impact on vaccine effectiveness and breakthrough infections, including in individuals
who have received booster doses, whether it is associated with more severe disease, and whether it is
susceptible to currently available COVID-19 treatments, additional infection control precautions are
indicated and necessary for Skilled Nursing Facilities because residents are at heightened risk for poor
health outcomes should transmission occur within the facility. Beginning December 15, 2021 through
January 31, 2022, all Skilled Nursing Facility residents, employees, and contractors, regardless of
vaccination status, who may encounter residents must test for COVID-19 infection on a once weekly
basis. In addition, to obtain entry into a Skilled Nursing Facility, all visitors, regardless of vaccinations
status, must provide proof of either:
• A negative PCR test taken within 72 hours prior to entry, OR
• A negative Antigen test taken within 24 hours prior to entry
• Antigen test kits will be made available to Skilled Nursing Facilities on an as needed basis.

Those who show documentation of recovery from COVID-19 within the last 90 days (i.e., a positive
COVID-19 viral test result on a sample taken no more than 90 days before) are exempt from weekly
testing and from showing proof of a negative viral test for entry.
Routine screening testing of asymptomatic staff includes essential visitors who frequently visit the facility at least once a week.

Routine Screening
- **HCP**
  - All staff (directly employed, contractors, consultants, service providers, volunteers, etc.) must be tested once weekly regardless of vaccination status.
  - Non-fully vaccinated staff may be required to be tested twice weekly per AFL 21-28
- **Residents**
  - All residents, regardless of vaccination status, must be tested once weekly.

Response
- Test all residents every 3-7 days, regardless of vaccination status
- Test all HCP every 3-7 days, regardless of vaccination status

Symptomatic
Actively screen all HCP and residents for COVID-19 symptoms regularly. Immediately test any HCP or resident who develop symptoms.

No positive tests after 2 weeks of testing
Routine Screening Testing – Exemptions, Other Considerations

• Individuals with documentation of recovery from COVID-19 within the last 90 days are exempt.

• Routine screening testing once weekly requirement for all residents ≠ quarantine everyone.
  – More guidance updates upcoming.

• If a resident (or resident representative) refuses routine screening testing, then all efforts should be made to educate the resident to undergo testing, but the resident may not be restricted from their usual activities nor should their refusal determine their quarantine/cohort status.
  – [link](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncoora2019/healthfacilities/snf/prevention/#testing)
## General Visitor Testing Requirements for INDOOR Visitation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who</th>
<th>All general visitors ≥ 2 yo, <strong>regardless of vaccination status</strong>, seeking indoor/in-room visitation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acceptable tests</td>
<td>• A negative PCR test result taken ≤ 72 hours prior to entry; OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• A negative FDA-approved point-of-care antigen test result taken ≤ 24 hours prior to entry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternatives</td>
<td>• Visitors who have not undergone COVID-19 viral testing prior to the visit should not be</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>refused entry and should be provided an FDA-approved point-of-care antigen test at the</td>
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<td>facility at the time of entry.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Visitors who are unable or unwilling to provide proof of the required negative test result may</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>not be permitted entry into the facility. However, SNFs should be prepared to offer visitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceptions</td>
<td>• Visitors who show documentation of recovery from COVID-19 within the last 90 days are</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>exempt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Essential visitors (as defined in <a href="https://www.cdph.ca.gov/docs/CDPH/AF/20-22.pdf">CDPH AFL 20-22</a>) are exempt and cannot be restricted access to any zone within the facility.*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Emergency medical services personnel responding to a patient call at the facility are exempt.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NOTE: compassionate care visitors are not exclusive to end-of-life situations and include support persons, e.g., caregiver, for residents experiencing weight loss, dehydration, failure to thrive, psychological distress, functional decline, or struggling with a change in environment.
Additional supply of point-of-care antigen test kits

- CLIA-waived point-of-care antigen test kits (*CareStart™*) are being rush delivered to all SNFs in LA County next week.
  - Allocation based on facility’s bed capacity size.
  - Thereafter, requests can be made on as-needed basis.

- Laboratory-based PCR tests are still preferred for staff and resident testing needs.
  - LAC DPH “Interim Guidelines for COVID-19 Antigen Testing in Skilled Nursing Facilities”

- Facilities conducting CLIA-waived point-of-care testing are required to report all positive test results to LA County and NHSN/CDPH. Reporting of non-positive results is not required but recommended.
  - [http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/reporting.htm#pocht](http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/ncorona2019/reporting.htm#pocht)

Public Health will send an email with more information later today!
COVID-19 Holiday Guidance
State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
California Department of Public Health

December 8, 2021

TO: Long-Term Care Facilities

SUBJECT: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Infection Control Recommendations during the 2021 Holiday Season

All Facilities Letter (AFL) Summary

This AFL provides COVID-19 infection control recommendations during holiday celebrations for residents, families, and facilities. This includes:

- Guidance for private gatherings
- Resident testing and placement after returning to the facility
- Communal activities in facilities

https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-21-49.aspx
Communal Dining & Group Activities

- Basic infection prevention & control (IPC) guidance still apply (6 ft distancing, universal source control)
- Outdoors is safer than indoors
- Fully vaccinated visitors and fully vaccinated residents in the Green Cohort can dine together without face masks only when actively eating and drinking.
  - [LA County’s indoor mask mandate](#) is still in effect
  - Visitors must also test negative starting 12/15/21 if indoors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Green Cohort</th>
<th>Yellow Cohort*</th>
<th>Red Cohort</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Indoor   | • Fully vaccinated: **Yes**  
  • Not fully vaccinated  
    o No outbreak: **Yes**  
    o Outbreak: **No**  
  | No regardless of resident’s vaccination status or facility’s outbreak status  
  | No regardless of resident’s vaccination status or facility’s outbreak status |
| Outdoor  | • Fully vaccinated: **Yes**  
  • Not fully vaccinated: **Yes**  
  | No regardless of resident’s vaccination status or facility’s outbreak status  
  | No regardless of resident’s vaccination status or facility’s outbreak status |

* If there is no outbreak in the facility, the following residents of the Yellow Cohort may follow the Green Cohort for communal dining and group activities (as long as they are asymptomatic and are not close contacts/considered exposed to a case):
  • Residents who are not fully vaccinated who have frequent appointments outside the facility (e.g., dialysis)
  • Residents who have severely immunocompromising conditions.
Resident Outings

• NO public health restrictions on residents leaving facilities based on vaccination status or quarantine/isolation status alone.

• Review with resident and family beforehand:
  1) Infection prevention measures while on outing (wear face mask, avoid crowds, social distancing, hand washing, get a booster dose, etc.)
  2) Expectations on screening and possibility of quarantine in Yellow, as applicable, on their return.
Visitation

• Basic IPC guidance still apply (6 ft distancing, universal source control)

• Outdoors is safer than indoors.

• Set reasonable, clear expectations ahead of visits to family.

• Consider having additional visitation hours (earlier, later) to accommodate increase in visitors.

• LA County’s indoor mask mandate is still in effect. Fully vaccinated residents in Green Cohort and their fully vaccinated visitors must continue to wear masks indoors, but physical contact is allowed.
Visitation: CMS QSO 20-39-NH revised 11/12/21

- Currently AFL 20-22.9 and LA County’s guidance are stricter in regards to which Zones/Cohorts are permitted general visitation during outbreaks and non-outbreaks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Green Cohort</th>
<th>Yellow Cohort</th>
<th>Red Cohort</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Indoor/In-room | Yes for all residents, regardless of vaccination status. | • No outbreak: Yes regardless of vaccination status  
• Outbreak: No regardless of vaccination status | No regardless of resident’s vaccination status or facility’s outbreak status. |
| Outdoor | Yes for all residents, regardless of vaccination status | Yes for all residents, regardless of vaccination status | No regardless of resident’s vaccination status or facility’s outbreak status. |

Essential visitation should be permitted indoor and outdoor for residents in all cohorts regardless of facility’s outbreak status and vaccination status of resident/visitor provided infection prevention & control practices including entry screening are followed.

6/24/21
Visitation: CMS QSO 20-39-NH revised 11/12/21

• **Start now to expand or be more permissive with visitation hours, the length of visits, and scheduling in advance.** Do not wait for the updated AFL or LA County guidance.
  – Balance between resident right to quality of life and infection control.
  – More flexibility and case by case determination.

• **What stays the same**
  – Visitors must continue to wear appropriate PPE/face masks, perform hand hygiene, follow 6 ft social distancing, only go the room of the residents they’re visiting or a designated visitation area, etc.
  – Facilities must continue to conduct entry screening of visitors (COVID-19 symptoms, temperature check, recent close contact).

• **Effective 12/15/21 thru 1/31/22:** new testing requirement for general visitation conducted indoors
Key takeaways

• Vaccinations and now boosters continue to be our most effective tool against COVID-19

• Monoclonal antibodies (mAb) are effective in preventing hospitalizations and deaths; can be used for treatment AND post-exposure prophylaxis (e.g., outbreak)
  – Be prepared, speak with your pharmacist/LTC pharmacy today!

• Revised Health Officer Order, effective 12/15/21 thru 1/31/22, requires:
  – Routine screening testing of all staff and residents once weekly
  – Proof of negative viral test for all general visitors regardless of vaccination status for indoor visitation

• Point-of-care antigen test kits (CareStart) are being delivered to all SNFs in LA County next week. More info will be sent via email today.
COVID-19 Resources for Skilled Nursing Facilities in Los Angeles County

- Contact to update your facility’s point of contact (e.g., to receive email updates): LACSNF@ph.lacounty.gov
- Contact for COVID-19 guidance questions in SNFs: LTC_NCoV19@ph.lacounty.gov
- Contact for COVID-19 Vaccination resource questions: COVID-LTC-Test@ph.lacounty.gov

- LAC DPH COVID-19 SNF Past Webinar Slides & Recordings: http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/SNF.htm
COVID-19 Resources for Skilled Nursing Facilities in Los Angeles County

• Los Angeles County Public Health

• CDPH:
  – CDPH All Guidance Documents by Topic (including State Public Health Officer Orders): https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Guidance.aspx
  – 2021 AFLs: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/LNCAFL20.aspx
  – 2020 AFLs: https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/LNCAFL21.aspx

• CDC, NIH:
Coronavirus Disease 2019
Guidelines for Preventing & Managing
COVID-19 in Skilled Nursing Facilities

Guidelines for Preventing and Managing COVID-19 in Skilled Nursing Facilities

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- Healthcare Personnel Monitoring and Return to Work
- Inter-facility Transfers
- Resources
