



**LAC DPH COVID-19 Update:
Vaccination for People at Higher Risk;
Revised Recommendations for the Fully
Vaccinated**



March 15, 2021

*This message is intended for all healthcare providers in Los Angeles County.
Please distribute as appropriate.*

Key Messages

- Effective today, County residents with one or more eligible high-risk medical conditions or disabilities as well as those who live or work in congregate living spaces are now eligible for COVID-19 vaccination; however, vaccine supply remains very limited.
- The CDC has released recommendations for fully vaccinated persons including revised recommendations for quarantine in [healthcare](#) and [non-healthcare settings](#). New LAC DPH guidance for the public is now available at [After You are Fully Vaccinated](#).

COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility for People with High-Risk Medical Conditions or Disabilities

The state is [has now opened vaccine eligibility](#) to persons aged 16-64 years of age with one or more eligible medical conditions or disabilities that put them at higher risk for serious COVID-19 illness, specifically:

- **Cancer**, current with weakened immune system
- **Chronic kidney disease**, stage 4 or above
- **Chronic pulmonary disease**, oxygen dependent
- **Down syndrome**
- **Solid organ transplant**, leading to a weakened immune system
- **Pregnancy**
- **Sickle cell disease**
- **Heart conditions**, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies (but not hypertension)
- **Severe obesity**(Body Mass Index ≥ 40 kg/m²)
- **Type 2 diabetes mellitus** with hemoglobin A1c level greater than 7.5%
- **People who, as a result of a developmental or other significant high-risk disability**, meet one or more of the following criteria:
 - A COVID-19 infection is likely to result in severe life-threatening illness or death; OR
 - Acquiring COVID-19 will limit the individual's ability to receive ongoing care or services vital to their well-being and survival; OR
 - Providing adequate and timely COVID care will be particularly challenging as a result of the individual's disability.

See the CDPH [Provider Bulletin](#) for more information, including a [fact sheet](#) for patients.

Below are some key points regarding this new phase of vaccine eligibility:

- Until the vaccine supply improves, there will not be enough appointments for all eligible persons and hardest hit communities are being prioritized when possible.
- Providers should use their clinical judgement to vaccinate individuals age 16 – 64 years who are deemed to be at the highest risk for morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 as a direct result of one or more of the eligible conditions.
- Providers who have been allocated vaccine are highly encouraged to vaccinate their own patients. Consider reaching out to your patients at high-risk of complications.
- County residents with an eligible high-risk condition or disability without access to documentation from a healthcare provider may self-attest that they have an eligible condition.
- The state is recommending that residents who meet these eligibility requirements first check-in with their healthcare providers, but that they also leverage pharmacies, myturn.ca.gov, or county portals to find appointments.
- In LA County, patients can visit VaccinateLACounty.com and click on “[How to make an Appointment](#)” to look for an appointment, view eligibility and documentation requirements, and download a [self-attestation template](#). Note: proof of residence in LA County is required. Advise patients who are 16 or 17 years of age to find an appointment at a location that offers Pfizer vaccine.
- Visit the Provider COVID-19 Vaccine [Prioritization and Allocation](#) webpage for the most current information.

Fully Vaccinated Persons and Quarantine

A person is considered fully vaccinated ≥ 2 weeks following the receipt of:

- the second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna)
- one dose of a single-dose vaccine (Johnson and Johnson/Janssen).

The following recommendations have been updated since the [LAHAN](#) on February 18, 2021.

Fully vaccinated persons who are a close contact to a confirmed COVID-19 case:

- Do not need to quarantine or test as long as they are asymptomatic. *[Note that the 90-day window for exemption from quarantine has been removed]*
- Should be instructed to monitor their health for 14 days after the last contact with the infected person. If they develop symptoms consistent with possible COVID-19, they should be instructed to self-isolate pending clinical evaluation and SARS-CoV-2 testing, if indicated.

Fully vaccinated healthcare workers with high-risk exposures:

- Do not need to be restricted from work following their exposure as long as they are asymptomatic. *[Note that this is now regardless of staffing shortages.]*
- Should continue to follow all current [infection prevention and control recommendations](#) including source control, daily monitoring, and testing as outlined in the LAC DPH [Healthcare Personnel Monitoring](#) guidelines.

CDC Resources:

- [Public Health Recommendations for Vaccinated Persons](#)
- [Updated Healthcare Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations in Response to COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
- [Science Brief](#)

Visit the LAC DPH [COVID-19 Hub](#) and [Vaccination Hub](#)

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