

May 17, 2023

What to Watch:

Key areas of attention.

- The U.S. Public Health Emergency (PHE) and the National Emergency Declaration for COVID-19 ended on Thursday, May 11th.
 - According to the World Health Organization (WHO), COVID-19 is no longer considered a global public health emergency. However, COVID-19 is still one of the leading causes of death in LA County.
 - We still need to use tools like vaccines, testing, and treatment to protect our communities from the worst outcomes of COVID-19.
 - The LA County Department of Public Health will continue to make sure all residents have access to the tools they need to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in our communities.

What to Know about Free COVID-19 Resources:

Updates about resources to prevent and treat COVID-19.

- Resources to prevent and treat COVID-19 will continue to be available for LA County residents, even though the national PHE has ended.
- COVID-19 vaccines and treatments are still available at no cost.
 - You do not have to have insurance to get a vaccine.
 - And you will not be asked about your immigration status.
- In California, insurance plans like Medicare or Medi-Cal must cover the cost of vaccines, testing and treatment through Nov. 11, 2023. Exact coverage may vary depending on your insurance plan.
- If you do not have insurance, there are still many ways to get a free COVID-19 test:
 - Visit a [Public Health vaccination site](#) to pick up a free at-home test kit.
 - Visit the [Community-Based Testing Sites for COVID-19](#) webpage to find low or no-cost testing.
 - Order a test kit through the federal government at covidtests.gov.
 - Many food banks, senior centers, and other local organizations offer free test kits for pick-up.
 - For more information, visit ph.lacounty.gov/COVIDtests/how.
- If you are uninsured, visit coveredca.com to see if you qualify for Medi-Cal or Covered California coverage.
- Public Health's Call Center will continue to operate.
 - The Call Center offers free telehealth services, support with scheduling vaccination appointments, COVID-19 information, and other resources.
 - Call 1-(833)-540-0473 any day of the week to access these services.

What to Share About Vaccines at Home:

Key messages about the DPH Homebound Vaccination Program.

- The Homebound Vaccination Program is free and easy to use. You can:
 - Call 1-(833)-540-0473 between 8:00am and 8:30pm every day of the week to request an appointment, OR
 - Go online to ph.lacounty.gov/vaxathome or ph.lacounty.gov/vacunacionencasa (en español).

- A community-based mobile health care provider will call you to schedule an appointment within two weeks of when you submit your request.
- Mobile health care providers will come to your home to give you the vaccine.
- They can also vaccinate caregivers and other family members upon request.
- The Homebound Vaccine team is offering updated COVID-19 vaccines.
 - The updated vaccine protects against the worst outcomes of the strains of COVID-19 spreading right now, like XBB.1.16.
 - People ages 65 and older can now get up to two doses of the updated COVID-19 vaccine.
 - Get a dose of the updated Pfizer or Moderna vaccines if you have not done so already.
 - If you are 65 or older and it has been at least four months since you got your first updated vaccine, you can get a second one now!
- Everyone ages 6 months and older should get at least one bivalent vaccine.
 - For unvaccinated people ages 6 years and older, the recommended vaccine protection is now just a single dose of the bivalent vaccine.
 - **Immunocompromised people ages 6 and older** can also get a second bivalent booster if it has been two months since their first one.
 - Visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccine](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/vaccine) to check if you have the most up-to-date protection.

What to Share About Mpox

Key messages to educate your community about mpox before Pride.

- However you celebrate Pride, play safely this summer.
- Mpox can infect anyone, regardless of sexual orientation and gender identity. But persons living with HIV, especially persons with uncontrolled or advanced HIV disease, are at higher risk for getting complications from mpox.
- The mpox vaccine is safe, effective, and an important way to protect yourself—especially if you are at high risk or are engaging in high-risk activities.
 - You need two doses to be fully vaccinated.
- The mpox vaccine is available to *anyone* needing protection against the disease without having to disclose any information on personal risk.
 - Visit [MyTurn.CA.Gov](https://www.MyTurn.CA.Gov) to schedule an appointment at a provider near you.

Resources:

- **Mpox Vaccines Available Here Flyer** ([English](#) | [Spanish](#))
 - A flyer to advertise availability of the mpox vaccine at mobile clinics, pharmacies, and more.
- **Mpox Vaccines Available Here Flyer V2** ([English](#) | [Spanish](#))
- **Get Ready for PRIDE Flyer** ([English](#) | [Spanish](#))
 - A flyer with information about how to take care of your sexual health before participating in PRIDE events.
- **Recording: PRIDE Messaging Briefing** w/ Dr. Sonali Kulkarni and Dr. Andrea Kim
 - A recording of a presentation about messages to share in the months leading up to summer PRIDE celebrations ([English](#) | [Spanish](#))