

# CHA Key Messages

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## Hospitals' On-Hand Inventories of COVID-19 Vaccine May Reflect Scheduled Doses, Storage for Other Providers

### 1. California's hospitals are key partners with the state in the effort to vaccinate every Californian against COVID-19.

- Since the COVID-19 vaccines became available in mid-December, hospitals across the state have administered millions of doses to eligible Californians, including health care workers, first responders and other essential workers, and individuals who meet the state's age-based criteria.
- Hospitals also have provided infrastructure, personnel, and supplies needed to achieve this massive public health effort.

### 2. Efforts by the state to be as transparent as possible about the vaccination effort are essential to ensuring public confidence; however, the data must be reported in context in order to gain public acceptance.

- The state's [newly published data on vaccine inventory](#) lack important information that could be misconstrued by the public.
- "Total doses on hand" is not a meaningful measure of vaccine administration efficiency. For example:
  - A hospital may have recently received a vaccine shipment that includes more doses than can be administered on any given day due to scheduling issues.
  - A hospital or system may be storing doses in its ultra-low temperature freezer for other vaccinators that don't have this capability.
  - A hospital may be keeping the vaccine in cold storage until it is assured it has enough syringes or other supplies necessary to use all of the vaccine once it is thawed.
  - A certain number of vaccine doses are designated as "second doses," but sometimes individuals miss their scheduled second-dose appointments. When this happens, hospitals have to follow-up with the individuals and convince them to return as soon as possible. In these situations, hospitals must ensure they have enough second doses on-hand for the rescheduled appointments.
  - The inconsistent and unreliable supply of vaccine means that some hospitals don't make appointments (or only make limited appointments) until they actually receive the vaccine. This approach can prevent having to cancel appointments if the expected supply of vaccine isn't

delivered, but it also means that the hospital may have a supply of vaccine on-hand longer than it otherwise would while appointments are scheduled.

- “Unscheduled doses on hand” and other measures should be considered once California’s vaccine system is up and running more smoothly.

**3. Hospitals will continue to work closely with state and local public health officials to ensure that every dose of vaccine is given in a timely and efficient manner.**

- As the supply of vaccine continues to increase — and hopefully stabilize — over the next several weeks, millions of additional Californians will begin to be protected from the effects of COVID-19.