

COVID-19 Surge: Executive Briefing

January 6, 2022



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Discussion



An open discussion period will be held after the presentations.

This is your time, and we want to hear from you about what you need and potential solutions to these challenges.

Online Questions/Comments: At any time, submit your questions or comments in the Q/A box at the bottom of your screen, press enter.

Audio Questions/Comments: Select "Raise Hand" at the bottom of your screen and your line will be unmuted. If listening by phone only, press *9.

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Presenters from the California Hospital Association



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Purpose for Today's Briefing



1) Share the Statewide Picture

2) Provide the Latest Information on:

- Protecting health care workers — boosters and testing, quarantine and isolation
- Meeting staffing ratios — submitting staffing resource requests, team nursing flexes
- Building out surge beds — COVID-19 Surge Hospitals and patient transfers

3) Discussion — Your Critical Needs and Potential Solutions

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Statewide Picture on Staffing and Hospitalizations



Staffing Shortages

- 40% of California hospitals report that they expect critical staffing shortages this week
- Significant growth in staff absences in the past couple weeks. Many staff out due to infections and exposures in the community
- Inability to secure all of the travel nurses and other staff from staffing agencies, or through the State's contracts with staffing agencies

Hospitalizations Now Exceed Summer Peak

- COVID-19 inpatients currently exceeds peak of summer surge
- Could exceed total hospitalizations (COVID and non-COVID) of the winter surge in the next week or 2-3 weeks

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December 22 Public Health Order on Boosters



- Significant rise in COVID-19 cases: 41.3 (12/22) vs. 112.4 (12/30) per 100k
- Requires all health care workers be boosted by 2/1/22. Testing and masking not an option without an exemption
- Staff who are eligible, but not boosted, must test 2x per week
- Testing program must begin by 12/27/21, fully compliant by 1/7/22

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New Quarantine Guidance: AFL 21-08.6



- Modeled after recent CDC guidance (12/23/21)
- Quarantine (exposed) and isolation (contracted) periods are shortened for unvaccinated workers from 10 days to 7 days during routine staffing levels
- During critical staffing shortages, isolation period is 5 days and there are no restrictions during a quarantine period with a diagnostic test
- For fully vaccinated workers during critical staffing shortages: 0 and >5 days

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Staffing Shortages and Surge Capacity



- Current Executive Order does not allow CDPH to issue ratio waivers
- CDPH providing team nursing program flexes
- Increasing contracts with staffing agencies
- Building out bed capacity at hospitals
- Public Health Order on transfers still in effect
- Evaluating options based on documented need

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CHA Advocacy



- Engaging State leaders at the highest levels
- Communicating that staff shortages are worsening
- Identifying support and relief needs

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Discussion



- 1. What are your current critical needs?**
- 2. What do you expect to need in the next few weeks?**
- 3. What are additional steps to increase capacity that the state could take?**

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Thank You



Thank you for participating in today's webinar.

For questions, contact:
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