

Forensic Services Division – CONREP  
1600 9<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 410  
Sacramento, California 95814  
[www.dsh.ca.gov](http://www.dsh.ca.gov)



March 9, 2021

TO: CONREP PROGRAM DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: COMMUNICATION TO CONREP PROVIDERS REGARDING  
CONREP CLIENTS AGES 16 THROUGH 64 ELIGIBILITY FOR  
COVID-19 VACCINATION

*Outreach to CONREP Clients Age 16 through 64*

Existing public health guidance from the California Department of Public Health states that effective March 15, 2021, the following persons will be eligible for vaccination:

- Individuals ages 16 through 64 who are deemed by the clinical judgment of their health care provider to be at the very highest risk for morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 as a direct result of one or more of the following severe health conditions:
  - **Cancer**, current with debilitated or immunocompromised state
  - **Chronic kidney disease**, stage 4 or above
  - **Chronic pulmonary disease**, oxygen dependent
  - **Down syndrome**
  - **Immunocompromised state** (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant
  - **Pregnancy**
  - **Sickle cell disease**
  - **Heart conditions**, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies (excludes hypertension)
  - **Severe obesity** (Body Mass Index  $\geq 40$  kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
  - **Type 2 diabetes mellitus** with hemoglobin A1c level greater than 7.5%

OR

- **If as a result of a developmental or other severe high-risk disability, one or more of the following applies:**
  - The individual is likely to develop severe life-threatening illness or death from COVID-19 infection
  - Acquiring COVID-19 will limit the individual's ability to receive ongoing care or services vital to their well-being and survival

- Providing adequate and timely COVID-19 care will be particularly challenging as a result of the individual's disability

**Please note that eligibility for vaccination does not guarantee actual access to the vaccine due to limited supply.**

### Vaccine Verification Letter

Some vaccination sites may require verification of client eligibility for vaccination. To facilitate this verification, we recommend that all CONREP programs provide personalized letters to each client acknowledging that he/she meets the eligibility criteria described above in this notification. CONREP programs can use the template verification letter attached to this notification for this purpose.

### Required Outreach by CONREP Programs

To reduce risks associated with COVID-19, all CONREP programs are directed to conduct immediate outreach to, and make contact with, **every CONREP client age 16 to 64 who is not known to already be vaccinated**, their family or legal designee, or with the Program Director of their licensed residential facility. In the interest of public health, time is of the essence. Outreach to clients most at-risk from COVID-19 complications should be prioritized.

Outreach and contact should be accomplished by telephone, in-person or via an online platform such as Zoom, WebEx, FaceTime, or Teams. Contact should be made in preferred languages, whenever possible. Emails, text, Everbridge messages or other written communications may be used when direct phone or in-person efforts are unsuccessful.

With this outreach, the CONREP program shall make every reasonable effort to provide the following information to CONREP clients:

- Information about where to obtain a vaccine;
- Information about how to schedule an appointment to receive a vaccine;
- Information about options for assistance in accessing vaccination, including public telephone hotlines or websites, transportation, and similar resources; and
- Information about the vaccines and their safety can be found on DSH's website: <https://www.dsh.ca.gov/COVID-19/Vaccination.html>

Additionally, each CONREP program shall make every reasonable effort to obtain a copy of the client's vaccination record and include it in the client's records, if the client or legal designee agrees or has consented to provide it.

Clients, family members, or other providers should contact their CONREP program with any questions regarding this notification. Questions from CONREP programs should be directed to [CONREP@dsh.ca.gov](mailto:CONREP@dsh.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Original Signed by:*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Lance, Psy.D.", written in a cursive style.

DANIEL LANCE, Psy.D.  
Assistant Chief Psychologist, CONREP Programs

cc: Chris Edens, Deputy Director  
Stacey Camacho, Assistant Deputy Director  
Mark Grabau, Psy.D., Chief Psychologist  
CONREP Operations Liaisons

Attachment:  
Vaccine Verification template letter