

Forensic Services Division – CONREP
1600 9th Street, Room 410
Sacramento, California 95814
www.dsh.ca.gov



March 11, 2021

TO: CONREP PROGRAM DIRECTORS

SUBJECT: UPDATED 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 ≥ 40 kg/m²)
 - **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

Some vaccination sites may require verification of client eligibility for vaccination. To protect confidentiality, verification documentation of the diagnosis or type of disability is not required, but instead anyone meeting the eligibility requirement will be asked to sign a self-attestation that they meet the criteria for high-risk medical conditions or disabilities.

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.SAC@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