



North Los Angeles County Regional Center

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December 30, 2020

Dear Consumers, Families, and Service Providers,

As we know, the COVID-19 vaccine is now being administered to frontline workers such as doctors, nurses, and others in healthcare and individuals in the high-risk category such as those living in congregate settings. Regional centers and ARCA are advocating for the inclusion of all direct support professionals, caregivers, and individuals with a developmental disability to be prioritized in distributing the vaccine. At this time, the California Department of Public Health has not yet released written guidelines for distributing the vaccine.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) advised the Center for Disease Control (CDC) of the following recommendations this December 2020. On December 1, ACIP recommended that 1) health care personnel and 2) residents of long-term care facilities be offered COVID-19 vaccination first, in Phase 1a of the vaccination program. On December 20, 2020, ACIP recommended that in Phase 1b, the vaccine should be offered to persons aged 75 years or older and frontline essential workers (non-health care workers) and that in Phase 1c, persons aged 65–74 years, persons aged 16–64 years with high-risk medical conditions, and essential workers not recommended for vaccination in Phase 1b should be offered vaccine. These recommendations for phased allocation provide guidance for federal, state, and local jurisdictions while vaccine supply is limited.

It is our understanding that local county public health is administering the vaccine in accordance with the ACIP Phase 1a recommendation at this time and that due to limited supply, they are currently working on furthering tiering of the vaccine distribution for LA County. We have not yet received additional information on the vaccine distribution for Phase 1b; please be assured that we will promptly disseminate information regarding the vaccination distribution plan once received.

Meantime, please continue to wear face coverings in public, social distance from those who do not live in your household, and wash hands frequently. Be well; be safe.