

**OC HEALTH CARE AGENCY (HCA)
COVID-19 MESSAGES**

COVID-19 Health News: Sign up for the newsletter by clicking [here](#).

HCA Press Releases: Sign up for media press releases by clicking [here](#).

TODAY'S KEY MESSAGES FOR SOCIAL MEDIA

1. Updated COVID-19 boosters can both help restore protection that has decreased since previous vaccines and against newer variants. The new bivalent booster target the recent Omicron subvariants. Learn more [Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines](#) [Including Boosters](#) | [CDC](#)



2. If you feel sick, don't delay. There are treatments you can take at home that are safe and effective for treating COVID-19. Most treatments must be started within 5 days of getting symptoms. Get tested and talk to a health care provider or find a Test to Treat location as soon as you notice symptoms. Call 1-800-232-0233 to find your nearest Test to Treat location.



3. Testing is essential to the success of stopping the spread of COVID-19. Test if you have symptoms or had close contact to someone with COVID-19. Order your free test kits at [COVID Home Tests | USPS](#)



4. As you're preparing for back-to-school, getting vaccinated and boosted are an important part of protecting yourself from getting seriously ill. If you have questions about safety, please talk to your pediatrician or primary care provider. Learn more [COVID-19 Vaccination for Children | CDC](#) or view a webinar hosted by the American Academy of Pediatrics on vaccines for kids [COVID-19 Vaccine Q&A for Parents \(English\) 07-12-22 on Vimeo](#)



MESSAGES BY TOPIC

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WHERE TO GET A COVID-19 VACCINE

- The OC Health Care Agency (HCA) has begun administering Novavax vaccines at HCA-managed vaccination sites, beginning this week. Flu vaccines are also now being offered. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and American Academy of Pediatrics, **flu vaccines can be safely co-administered with COVID-19 vaccines for both eligible children and adults**. Eligible residents can register for an appointment by visiting www.Othena.com.
- The HCA is partnering with CHOC to offer COVID-19 Vaccines for young children ages 6 months to 5 years. The clinic will be open to the public through Othena.com appointment schedules, and to CHOC patients. **Clinics will continue if demand continues**. Additional locations can be found through www.vaccines.gov.
- Pharmacists are licensed to administer immunizations to patients three years of age and older.
- Healthcare providers
- Go to Vaccines.gov, call **(800) 232-0233**, or text your zip code to **438829**
- Go to MyTurn.ca.gov
- Walk-in or schedule an appointment at one of the following County sites – visit Othena.com or call **(800) 564-8448**

PREPARATION FOR VACCINATION APPOINTMENTS AT COUNTY SITES:

- Bring official documents to your vaccination appointment to prove:
 - Your identity (ID card)
 - That you are the appropriate age for the vaccine being offered (DOB)
- Minors must be accompanied by their Parent/Legal Guardian, provide picture ID and proof of age.
- Individuals showing up for their vaccination appointment at a County site may be turned away due to:
 - Insufficient documentation for minors (such as proof of DOB)
 - Patients state feeling unwell and/or having symptoms associated with COVID-19
 - Patients state they recently tested positive for COVID-19
 - High probability of an anaphylactic reaction; such patients should consult with their primary care physician or allergist to be referred to an appropriate facility such as a hospital or urgent care center that can adequately respond and support in the event of a reaction

ACCOMMODATIONS:

- Call the OC COVID-19 Health Referral Line at **(800) 564-8448** (M-F, 8-5) for help with:
 - Scheduling a vaccination appointment
 - Getting a ride to a vaccination or testing site in Orange County
 - Vaccination for homebound individuals (must meet certain criteria)

CALOPTIMA GIFT CARDS:

- For questions about CalOptima gift cards, call **(714) 246-8895**

VACCINES FOR UNINSURED:

- As of April 5, federal claims for those without insurance are no longer accepted for COVID testing and vaccines. HCA hosted vaccination site do not require insurance, and no cost is charged. These can be scheduled through www.Othena.com.

YOUR HEALTH MATTERS OC

- Your Health Matters OC is a bi-weekly talk show hosted by Dr. Clayton Chau and Dr. Regina Chinsio-Kwong featuring health care professionals discussing COVID updates and various health topics that impact our community.
- The show airs every other Tuesday on the HCA's Facebook and YouTube pages.
- Members of the public and media can email questions to yourhealthmatters@ochca.com
- For upcoming dates: ohealthinfo.com/yourhealthmatters

COVID-19 TESTING

WHERE CAN I GET A TEST?

- Retail pharmacies
- Healthcare providers
- Local community organizations or churches
- Search for testing sites at myturn.ca.gov/testing, sick.org/oc, or covidclinic.org
- Order free at-home tests from USPS at covidtests.gov
- Call Latino Health Access at (714) 805-7838

HCA TEST KITS:

- Nostril self-collection, at-home COVID-19 PCR test kits are also available to order online at no cost by visiting ohealthinfo.com/covidtest
 - Due to operational limitations, kits may be delivered to OC zip codes only. Please use an OC home or work address when ordering a kit.
 - An email address is required for each person requesting a kit.
 - Each kit comes with a prepaid shipping return label and are able to be dropped off at any FedEx drop-off location (click [here](#) to locate a dropbox or call **(800) 463-3339** to schedule a pickup).

TEST KITS FOR UNINSURED:

- As of April 5, federal claims for those without insurance are no longer accepted for COVID testing and vaccines.
- Uninsured individuals seeking a COVID-19 vaccine or test can visit ohealthinfo.com/covid for more information on services available through the HCA.

DO NOT GO TO HOSPITALS FOR COVID-19 TESTING:

- If you do not have symptoms, have mild symptoms and are at low risk of severe disease, do not go to the urgent care clinics or emergency rooms to obtain COVID-19 testing. Hospitals are focused on people who are sick and need urgent care.

VACCINES, BOOSTER DOSES & ADDITIONAL DOSES FOR IMMUNOCOMPROMISED

- As of 9/1/22, the CDC/ACIP approved the use of updated COVID-19 boosters from Pfizer-BioNTech for people ages 12 years and older and from Moderna for people ages 18 years and older which add Omicron BA.4 and BA.5 spike protein components to the current vaccine composition. The new formula will help to restore protection that has waned since previous vaccination by targeting variants that are more transmissible and immune-evading.
- **Vaccine eligibility chart:** Available from CDPH to help you figure out which vaccine people can get based on their age and dose that they need (updated to include second boosters): [At-A-Glance COVID-19 Vaccination Schedules \(cdc.gov\)](#)

- Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine is now Emergency Use Authorized (EUA) as a 2-dose primary services for **those 12 and older**, given 3-8 weeks apart. It is not authorized for use as a booster dose. See Media Statement <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/s0719-covid-novavax-vaccine.html>. More information can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/novavax.html>
- Parents and caregivers can now get their children 6 months through 5 years of age vaccinated with the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines to better protect them from COVID-19. All children, including children who have already had COVID-19, should get vaccinated.
 - CDPH social media toolkit in multiple languages to promote vaccines for young children: [Under 5 Toolkit - Google Drive](#)
- Boosters are an important part of protecting yourself from getting seriously ill or dying from COVID-19. Use this tool to determine when/if you should get one or more COVID-19 Boosters [Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines Including Boosters | CDC](#)
- More info: [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html)

COVID-19 TREATMENTS & THERAPEUTICS

As of 7/6/22 Washington, D.C.—State-licensed pharmacists are now able to prescribe the oral COVID-19 antiviral, Paxlovid (nirmatrelvir and ritonavir), with some limitations. The FDA has revised the emergency use authorization (EUA) for Paxlovid to allow state-licensed pharmacists to prescribe the drug to eligible patients. See Press Announcement <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-authorizes-pharmacists-prescribe-paxlovid-certain-limitations>

CDPH TREATMENT FLYER – Now available in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

COVID-19 THERAPEUTICS:

Information from U.S. Department of Health & Human Services:
[hhs.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-treatments-therapeutics/index.html](https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/covid-19-treatments-therapeutics/index.html)

TEST TO TREAT INITIATIVE:

- Certain local Test to Treat sites may offer COVID-19 testing and free treatment at the same location.
- More info for HHS: [aspr.hhs.gov/TestToTreat/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.aspr.hhs.gov/TestToTreat/Pages/default.aspx)
- More info from CDPH: [cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Treatments.aspx](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Treatments.aspx)

COMPLAINTS & MISINFORMATION RELATED TO COVID-19

- Report a business or facility in Orange County that is not following current state or local COVID-19 mandates:
 - For restaurants, bars, supermarkets, hotels, pools, and body art studios, email Environment Health Services at ehealth@ochca.com
 - For other types of businesses or facilities, call OSHA at **(833) 579-0927**
- Email rumors and misinformation to CDPH at rumors@cdph.ca.gov

- More info from CDPH: [occovid19.oehealthinfo.com/sites/virus/files/2021-05/CDPH Trust and Safety Team.pdf](https://ocovid19.oehealthinfo.com/sites/virus/files/2021-05/CDPH_Trust_and_Safety_Team.pdf)
- Report fraud related to COVID-19 testing sites by calling the Office of Inspector General at (800) 447-8477 or online at oig.hhs.gov/fraud.

COUNTY HEALTH ORDERS & RECOMMENDATIONS

LINK TO COUNTY HEALTH ORDER:

- [occovid19.oehealthinfo.com/article/oc-health-officers-orders-recommendations](https://ocovid19.oehealthinfo.com/article/oc-health-officers-orders-recommendations)

KEY UPDATE AS OF 8//19/22:

- The HOO was updated to include recent CDPH guidance regarding K-12 Schools.

KEY UPDATES AS OF JUNE 15, 2022:

- The primary change to the HOO is to align with CDPH’s definition of close contact, which now states “someone sharing the same indoor space (e.g. home, clinic waiting room, airplane, etc.) for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period” during an infected person’s infectious period.

KEY UPDATES AS OF MARCH 24, 2022:

- Overall, County Health Officer orders are in alignment with recent changes in CDPH guidance
- In response to inquiries from employers, schools and the public after posting of the orders dated March 11, additions were made primarily to Part I on Isolation, section 1 and 2 to provide clarity on timing, isolation and cases where isolation can be ended sooner than the 10-day period.
 - I. Self-Isolation of Persons with COVID-19 Order, Section 1: Persons who are symptom free but test positive for COVID-19
 - Adjustment in language for exception – if not tested on day 5 or after – one who is COVID positive should then continue self-isolation through day 10
 - Additional “Note”- If an asymptomatic individual who tests positive for COVID develops symptoms, isolation should continue for 10 days from date of symptom(s) onset. Self-isolation for someone who develops symptoms can end sooner if a diagnostic specimen collected day 5 or later from symptom(s) onset is negative.
 - I. Self-Isolation for Persons with COVID-19 Order, Section 2: Persons who have COVID-19 symptoms
 - Self-isolation period can end sooner than 10 days from symptom(s) onset if any of the listed conditions mentioned are met (symptom resolution within first 24 hours of onset without use of fever reducing agent, diagnostic specimen that tests negative, alternative diagnosis).
 - Exception statement also made that isolation can end sooner than 10 days from date of symptom(s) onset if a diagnostic specimen collected day 5 or later is negative.
- Day 0
 - Additional clarity of timing and “Day 0” description and diagram added

- **KEY UPDATES AS OF MARCH 11, 2022:**

- Isolation is still required for those with newly diagnosed COVID infection and COVID symptoms
- Quarantine is still a very important aspect and is strongly recommended; in some instances, still required under Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS)
- Face masks are still required in certain high risk settings, otherwise strongly recommended
- Vaccine requirements are in alignment with CDPH orders for certain workers

- Childcare and K-12 Schools are advised to follow the respective Childcare or K-12 guidance provided by CDPH on March 9

ISOLATION & QUARANTINE

UPDATED ISOLATION & QUARANTINE GUIDANCE FROM CDPH (JUNE 9, 2022):

- cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Guidance-on-Isolation-and-Quarantine-for-COVID-19-Contact-Tracing.aspx
 - Added fully vaccinated and booster-eligible but not boosted to list of individuals recommended for quarantine or work exclusion in high-risk settings.
 - Included link to [AFL 22-13](#) for guidance on quarantine for residents of Skilled Nursing Facilities.
- Quarantine and isolation calculators – CA (Updated 8/1/22)
[Quarantine and isolation - Coronavirus COVID-19 Response \(ca.gov\)](#)

CDC ISOLATION GUIDANCE:

The CDC issued new isolation and precaution guidance for people with COVID-19

cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html

Per CDC, this information is intended for a general audience. This CDC guidance is meant to supplement—not replace—any federal, state, local, territorial, or tribal health and safety laws, rules, and regulations.

Healthcare professionals should see [Ending Isolation and Precautions for People with COVID-19](#).

MASKS

UNIVERSAL MASKING:

- To help prevent the spread of droplets containing COVID-19, all County residents and visitors are strongly recommended to wear face coverings in accordance with and as required by the Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings issued by the California Department of Public Health.
- In alignment with the CDC's announcement that its order requiring masking on public transportation and at transportation hubs is no longer in effect, effective immediately California's requirement for masking on public transit and in transportation hubs is terminated. CDPH strongly recommends that individuals in these settings continue to wear a mask.
- As of March 1, masks are no longer required for unvaccinated individuals, but are strongly recommended for all individuals in most indoor settings.
- Masks are still required for everyone in high transmission settings such as emergency shelters, health care settings, correctional facilities, homeless shelters and long-term care facilities.
- For K-12 schools and child care facilities, after March masks will no longer be required but will be strongly recommended.
- **Full State Guidance:**
cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx

CDC MASK RECOMMENDATIONS:



11,

CDC – TYPES OF MASKS AND RESPIRATORS:

- [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/types-of-masks.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/types-of-masks.html)

VACCINE INFORMATION RESOURCES

VACCINE ELIGIBILITY CHART:

- [At-A-Glance COVID-19 Vaccination Schedules \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/covid19/vaccines-at-a-glance)

VACCINE EDUCATION VIDEOS:

- Vaccine education videos are available on [ocaliforniahealthinfo.com/covid](https://www.ocaliforniahealthinfo.org/covid) for people who are interested in learning more about the vaccine

IF I GOT VACCINATED OUTSIDE THE U.S., AM I CONSIDERED “FULLY VACCINATED”?

- [cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html#people-vaccinated-outside-us](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html#people-vaccinated-outside-us)

VACCINES FOR CHILDREN AGES 6 months – 11 years old :

- Visit [At-A-Glance COVID-19 Vaccination Schedules \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/covid19/vaccines-at-a-glance)

WAYS TO PROVE THAT YOU ARE VACCINATED:

- Show your CDC vaccination card
- Visit myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov to get your digital vaccine record from the State
- If you were vaccinated at a County site, log into your account at [Othena.com](https://www.ocaliforniahealthinfo.org)

OTHER

CDPH / HHS:

Responding to COVID-19 in the Workplace for Employers (as of 6/28/22)
[Workplace Outbreak Employer Guidance \(ca.gov\)](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Workplace-Outbreak-Employer-Guidance)