



Dear Colleagues:

Here is a COVID advisory update.

**All Kern County Residents 65 and Older Eligible for Vaccine**

Right now, [all Kern County residents 65 and older are eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine](#). Kern County is currently in the first part of Phase 1B, and the next population to get access to the virus will be at-risk individuals working in education, child care, emergency services, and food and agriculture. Virtually all health care workers in the county are currently eligible for the vaccine. Check out the image below to see when you might be eligible:

**COVID-19 Vaccine Schedule**

**PHASE 1a** Persons at risk of exposure to SARS-CoV-2 through their work in any role in direct health care or long-term care settings.

**Vaccinating NOW**  
Tier 1

- Acute care, psychiatric and correctional facility hospitals
- Skilled nursing facilities, assisted living facilities, and similar settings for older or medically vulnerable individuals
- Residents in long-term care settings
- Paramedics, EMTs and others providing emergency medical services
- Dialysis centers

**Vaccinating NOW**  
Tier 2

- Intermediate care facilities for persons who need non-continuous nursing supervision and supportive care
- Home health care and in-home supportive services
- Community health workers, including promotoras
- Public health field staff
- Primary care clinics, including federally qualified health centers, rural health centers, correctional facility clinics, and urgent care clinics

**Vaccinating NOW**  
Tier 3

- Specialty clinics (i.e. optometry, cardiology, neurology, outpatient surgery, physical therapy, etc.)
- Laboratory workers
- Dental and other oral health clinics
- Pharmacy staff not working in settings at higher tiers

**PHASE 1b**

**Vaccinating NOW**

- Individuals 65 years and older

**Tier 1 - Vaccinating Next**

- Those at risk of exposure at work in the following sectors:
  - Education
  - Childcare
  - Emergency services
  - Food and agriculture

**Tier 2 - Vaccinating Soon**

- Those at risk of exposure at work in the following sectors:
  - Transportation and logistics
  - Industrial, commercial, residential, and sheltering facilities and services
  - Critical manufacturing
- Congregate settings with outbreak risk:
  - Incarcerated
  - Homeless

**PHASE 1c**

**Tier 1**

- Individuals 50-64 years of age
- People 16-64 years of age and have an underlying health condition or disability which increases their risk of severe COVID-19
- Those at risk of exposure at work in the following sectors:
  - Water and wastewater
  - Defense
  - Energy
  - Chemical and hazardous materials
  - Communications and IT
  - Financial services
  - Government operations / community-based essential functions

kernpublichealth.com • 661-321-3000 *Currently there are limited supplies of vaccine. This information will be updated when supplies improve.* 01/13/2021

Kern County Public Health has also created [an interactive vaccine map](#) with all of the locations in the county that are distributing the virus. Visit the page and click on one of the orange dots for information about the site, or click on the “Find Vaccinations Near You” button and enter your address to find sites within a 5 or 10 minute drive.

Nick Strobel sent out an email with information about the vaccine map and a spreadsheet of vaccine locations close to the Panorama Campus, BC SouthWest, and the Delano Campus. A list with a few of the locations for each campus is below:

### **Panorama Campus:**

- Universal Urgent Care - 2121 Niles St.
- Niles Primary Care Clinic - 2123 Niles St.
- Priority Urgent Care - 2509 Mt. Vernon Ave.
- Kern Medical Center - 1700 Mt. Vernon Ave.
- Auburn Pharmacy - 5645 Auburn St.

### **BC SouthWest**

- Express Pharmacies - 3400 Calloway Dr. and 9902 Brimhall Rd.
- Central Valley Occupational Medical Group - 4100 Truxtun Ave.
- Brimhall Primary Care Clinic - 8325 Brimhall Rd.
- Vons Pharmacy - 9000 Ming Ave.
- Omni Family Health - 1701 Stine Rd.

### **Delano Campus**

- Komoto Medical Pharmacy - 1017 Ellington St.
- Omni Family Health - 912 Fremont St.
- Central Valley Occupational Medical Group - 1427 S. Lexington St.

### **Local Education Roundup: Rosedale Union Bringing Back TK-2 for In-Person Instruction, KHSD Sends Out Vaccine Survey for Employees, BCSD Outlines Plans for Learning Loss**

As Governor Newsom begins rolling out the state’s Safe Schools For All program to encourage in-person instruction starting with our youngest learners (more details on that initiative below), [some students in the Rosedale Union School District returned to their physical campuses on Tuesday, Jan. 19](#). Students in transitional kindergarten through second grade are returning to in-person learning, as well as special education students in other grades.

Third grade through sixth grade will be returning to campus on Feb. 1, and middle school students will be the last group to come back starting Feb. 9. Parents and guardians can choose to opt out of in-person learning and continue with virtual instruction, but if they choose to commit, they must leave their students in in-person instruction until at least the end of the quarter.

As the Kern High School District begins considering its reopening plans, [they've sent out an anonymous survey to employees throughout the district](#) asking if they would be interested in opting in to a vaccine. The district is looking to gauge response for interest in the vaccine, and employees who opt in will have a no-cost option for vaccination.

Mark Luque, the Deputy Superintendent for the Bakersfield City School District, [presented an early outline for a plan to proactively mitigate the ongoing learning loss that has occurred due to the pandemic](#). The plan, which will be presented more fully at an upcoming BCSD board meeting, includes a summer academy and supplemental learning through after-school and weekend academies in the next academic year.

### California Launches Safe Schools for All Hub

**State of California  
Safe Schools For All Hub**

California's Safe Schools for All Plan provides the support and accountability to establish a clear path to minimize in-school transmissions and enable, first, a phased return to in-person instruction, and then ongoing safe in-person instruction.

The Safe Schools For All Hub consolidates key resources and information related to COVID-19 and schools. New resources will be added to the Hub on a routine basis.

**School Administrators**  
Portal for School Leaders to Request Technical Assistance from the State Safe Schools For All Team.  
[Start Your Request](#) →

**School Staff & Parents**  
Portal for School Staff and Parents to Report Concerns for Potential State Intervention and Enforcement.  
[Provide Your Feedback](#) →

[Governor Newsom has launched the Safe Schools for All initiative](#) to provide support for schools looking to open up for in-person instruction, starting with their most vulnerable students. For our youngest children, students with disabilities, and students without access to the resources to sustain virtual instruction, the Governor's Office is arguing that the benefits and resources that come with in-person learning outweigh the potential dangers of the virus, which can be mitigated with masks and social distancing.

Under the current Safe Schools for All guidelines, if a district is in a county with 25 new cases per 100,000 or less, they are eligible for the program, which provides a base amount \$450 per student and potentially more based on the number of high needs students in the district, as determined by a Local Control funding formula. For more information, [EdSource published a helpful guide to the Safe Schools For All Initiative](#).

On Thursday, January 14, Governor Newsom announced the [Safe Schools For All hub](#), which contains information and resources for schools looking to reopen, as well as portals for faculty, staff, and parents to request technical assistance or report their concerns. The program also includes \$4.6 billion in funding for districts to expand

summer school offerings and prioritize low-income students, foster youth and other vulnerable populations.

### **LA County reaches 1 million confirmed cases**

On Saturday, January 16, [Los Angeles County announced that it was the first in the US to record more than 1 million confirmed cases](#) of coronavirus since the start of the pandemic last year. LA County also announced its first confirmed case of the B.1.1.7 variant that was first discovered in the UK. An estimate based on scientific modeling suggests that [1 in every 3 LA County residents has been exposed to the virus](#).

### **Federal Vaccine Reserve Runs Out**

Outgoing Health and Human Services secretary Alex Azar previously stated that the federal government would be releasing vaccine doses to states from its “physical” reserve. However, [The Washington Post reported on Friday, January 15 that the vaccine reserve had already been exhausted](#) and no physical stockpile actually exists. Health officials who were expecting to increase their supplies of the vaccine are now left high-and-dry, as many hadn’t been notified about the lack of reserve stock until last week.

However, states are still receiving vaccine shipments, and individuals who need their second dose of the vaccine will be prioritized over first shots. [NBC News covered the blame game between state and federal officials](#), with state governors and other politicians claiming they were misled about the vaccine reserves while federal officials criticized states for micro-managing the existing supply of the vaccine.

### **One-shot vaccines from AstraZeneca, Johnson and Johnson Show Promise in Early Clinical Trials**

While the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines continue to spread across the country, new vaccines are being tested by AstraZeneca and Johnson and Johnson. [Time Magazine wrote a detailed feature about the Johnson and Johnson vaccine on Thursday, January 14](#), noting that 90 percent of clinical participants created antibodies within 29 days after receiving the shot. The Johnson and Johnson vaccine only requires one treatment to administer, compared to the Pfizer, Moderna and AstraZeneca vaccines which require two doses. Meanwhile, [the vaccine developed by Oxford University and AstraZeneca vaccine received emergency approval in the UK in late December](#), and [Pakistan approved emergency use of the vaccine](#) on Saturday, January 16.

[In an interview with Chuck Todd on Meet the Press on Sunday, January 17](#) (Sunday, January 17), Dr. Fauci noted that the two new vaccines are “weeks away, not months away” from emergency FDA approval in the United States.

### **CDC: COVID Variant Could Become Dominant Form of Virus by March**

[In a press conference on Friday, January 15](#), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention acknowledged the presence of the B.1.1.7 variant in the United States, stating that individuals will need to be more vigilant in adhering to social distancing protocol as the variant discovered in the UK in December becomes the dominant strain in the US by March.

In addition to the B.1.1.7 variant, a new variant called P.1 was discovered in Brazil, and researchers are concerned that this variant could bypass the human immune response. [Science Magazine reported on the two new variants and others](#) on Friday, January 15, concluding that more research is needed to test if the variants are immune-resistant.

### **Blueprint For a Safer Economy Dashboard**

[The State of California's Blueprint For a Safer Economy dashboard](#) has been modified to fit the new guidelines announced in August. A table with the comparison of test positivity rates from several counties on the monitoring list is below.

	January 10, 2021		January 17, 2021*	
	New cases per 100k	Test positivity rate	New cases per 100k	Test positivity rate
<b>California</b>	74.1	15.0%	91.7	17.6%
<b>Kern County</b>	60.6	20.7%	77.4**	24.0%**
<b>Kings County</b>	58.8	14.2%	83.5	18.0%
<b>Fresno County</b>	62.3	17.0%	81.6	19.4%
<b>San Bernardino</b>	122.8	22.1%	140.2	24.1%
<b>LA County</b>	107.9	17.8%	127.3	20.5%

\*Dashboard data updated on January 12

\*\*Kern County is under a regional stay-at-home order based on ICU capacity

### **Johns Hopkins Dashboard**

As of 11:30 a.m. on January 17, the [Johns Hopkins University Dashboard](#) shows that there were almost 95 million confirmed COVID-19 cases worldwide since the start of the pandemic. Here is the table that captures the difference in the numbers since January 10.

	<b>Jan. 10, 2021</b>	<b>Jan. 17, 2021</b>	<b>Difference</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>World</b>	90,180,310	94,759,287	4,578,977	5.1%
<b>U.S.</b>	22,374,351	23,819,290	1,444,939	6.5%
<b>California</b>	2,670,962	2,900,246	229,284	8.6%
<b>Kern</b>	78,832	85,362	6,530	8.3%

Stay safe, stay healthy, wear a mask, keep the 6ft distance separation, and wash your hands to slow down the spread and reduce the strain on our healthcare systems and providers.

That's all for now.  
Until next time.

With much Renegade Pride and Collegiality,  
sonya

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