



For Internal Use Only – Do Not Distribute (2/3/20)

This draft document is meant for internal use only, please do not distribute or share externally. As you know, the vaccine distribution landscape is rapidly changing and we want to share potential talking points to guide your responses to questions you might be asked. Keep in mind, these talking points will continue to evolve.

Potential Talking Points:

- California's community health centers (CHCs) provide health care to more than 7.4 million Californians, many of whom are essential workers.
- In Alameda County, community health centers serve more than 170,000 residents, of whom 86% have Medi-Cal or are uninsured, and 83% identify as people of color. Health centers proudly serve essential workers, agricultural workers, and persons experiencing homelessness.
- Health centers continue to provide COVID-19 tests, treatments, and now administer vaccines. In Alameda County, health centers have a strong partnership with the County Public Health Department, serving as almost half of all community testing sites in the County and working in partnership with the Public Health Department on contact tracing and on vaccine administration.
- Alameda County has been successful in testing by prioritizing based on equity principles - communities of color, priority neighborhoods, and addressing historic inequities.
- We stand with the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency's strategy to continue to apply an equity lens to the COVID-19 response and health centers are the key partner for achieving an equitable vaccine distribution.
- Health centers play a pivotal role in ensuring those impacted most by the COVID-19 pandemic have access to needed care and are prioritized in receiving vaccinations.
- We are committed to guarantee that COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccine distribution recognizes the higher burden of the disease in disproportionately impacted communities - including Black, Asian and Pacific Islander, Indigenous and Latinx persons - and places those groups at the center of COVID-19 response and recovery.
- Health centers are the trusted providers, multilingual, culturally responsive and designed specifically to address the needs of those most vulnerable and hardest to reach (MediCal, uninsured, people of color, immigrants, limited English proficiency, essential workers, elderly, medically vulnerable, homeless, homebound, etc.).



Suggested Ask's:

- Health centers are uniquely positioned to be “equity partners” to make sure that the communities at highest risk of COVID transmission, serious illness, and death are vaccinated at highest enough rates to bring the pandemic under control. They already have trusting relationships with the communities and neighborhoods most at risk of contracting, spreading and suffering from COVID-19. As almost half of the COVID-19 community testing sites in Alameda County, health centers are already an integral part of the County’s COVID-19 response infrastructure. This model was highly successful for testing and should be built upon for vaccination.
- County: Health centers agree with Alameda County Health Care Services Agency that the County Public Health Department should continue to have decision-making authority on vaccine distribution, that equity be prioritized, and that health centers are the equity partners. Please support HCSA’s recommendations and please reach out to State officials to reiterate these requests made by CHEAC and by CPCA state associations. (letters enclosed)
- State: Health centers welcome the State’s desire to uphold equitable vaccine distribution. We respectfully ask the State to partner with health centers, who serve 7.4M Californians, and authorize the necessary resources – adequate vaccine supplies, financial support, and regulatory flexibilities – to administer mass vaccinations equitably and sustainably. Alameda County’s COVID-19 testing strategy successfully prioritized the communities and neighborhoods hit hardest by the disease and relied on a strong partnership with health centers as the trusted community providers. This is a best practice and should be replicated and built upon for vaccine distribution.
- Federal: Alameda County’s COVID-19 testing strategy successfully prioritized the communities and neighborhoods hit hardest by the disease and relied on a strong partnership with health centers as the trusted community providers. This is a best practice and should be replicated and built upon for vaccine distribution. President Biden recognizes the power of health centers to close the gaps in health disparities and their commitment to fair vaccine access. As part of his National Strategy for COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness, President Biden aims to launch a nationwide vaccination partnership with health centers and give them direct access to vaccine supplies.