December 16, 2021

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

COVID-19 Vaccination and Boosters

Background

Surges in COVID-19 cases due to spread of the Omicron variant in Europe and the Eastern United States predict an imminent and rapid rise in COVID-19 infections in Marin County.

Early data suggests strongly that a booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine confers significant protection from hospitalization and death in persons infected with the Omicron variant.

This advisory urges all Marin County healthcare providers to a) gain capacity to provide COVID-19 vaccinations and b) optimize the delivery of booster doses to eligible patients. As SARS-CoV-2 becomes a permanent part of our natural environment, COVID-19 prevention through vaccination must become a routine element of healthcare practice.

In order to increase transparency and enhanced access to vaccinations for our residents, on Monday, December 27th, a list of medical practices within the county that have been approved to provide COVID-19 vaccinations will be published on the Marin County website. Ongoing, the website will publicize the number of vaccines administered by each vaccine provider in Marin County on a weekly basis.

While Marin has the highest vaccination rates in the state, 97 thousand Marin County residents – more than one third of the county population—have not yet receive a booster dose and are eligible.

Barriers to clinic-based vaccinations have reduced significantly, supporting the shift of COVID-19 vaccination from public health to health care.

- The Pfizer vaccine is now is easier to store: Up to 10 weeks in a Refrigerator. Ultra-low freezers are no longer required.
- Vaccines are no-cost to patients or providers, and each dose allows for reimbursement to vaccine providers (including a $40 administration fee).
- Healthcare providers can receive $10,000 for up to five COVID-19 vaccination sites. To receive this incentive, providers must initiate the application by Friday, December 17.

Actions Requested of Healthcare Providers

1. In order to offer vaccinations, Marin healthcare providers must be enrolled in the California COVID-19 Vaccination Program.
2. If you are not enrolled, complete the application in myCAvax. The COVID-19 Call Center for Providers can answer questions about program requirements, enrollment, and vaccine distribution (covidcallcenter@cdph.ca.gov or (833) 502-1245).

3. Initiate the application by Friday December 17 to qualify for additional financial incentives under the myCAvax grant.

4. Alert your patients who are eligible for boosters to obtain a booster shot. If it is necessary to prioritize within your patient population, recognize that those age 55 and older are at higher risk for hospitalization in breakthrough infections.