



DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.

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## Public Health Advisory

### COVID-19 Update, State Health Officer Order, and Updated Guidance

Dear Colleagues:

This advisory provides an update on COVID-19 community transmission, notice of the State Public Health Officer Order, information on updated masking guidance, and guidance on boosters and antibody testing.

#### Current Situation

MARIN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH REQUESTS THAT PROVIDERS IDENTIFY ELIGIBLE, UNVACCINATED PATIENTS AND REFER FOR VACCINATION IMMEDIATELY.

#### *Delta Variant*

Since April the SARS-CoV-2 B.1.617.2 (Delta) [variant](#) has been circulating in Marin County. This variant is highly transmissible in [indoor settings](#) and requires multi-component prevention strategies to reduce spread. Despite high vaccination rates, Marin County is experiencing [substantial levels of community transmission](#) due to the Delta variant. While most COVID-19 cases are among unvaccinated residents, the proportion of breakthrough cases is increasing. Hospitalizations have also increased, primarily among unvaccinated persons. Marin County is also seeing a concerning uptick in cases among staff and residents in long-term care facilities.

#### *Unvaccinated Workers in High-Risk Settings*

On July 26, 2021, California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued an [Order](#) requiring vaccine verification of staff; enhanced respiratory protection for source control; and diagnostic screening testing for unvaccinated and incompletely vaccinated workers.

#### *Updated Masking Guidance*

On July 27, 2021, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated [guidance](#) for fully vaccinated people given new evidence on the B.1.617.2 (Delta) variant. CDC recommends that fully vaccinated person wear a mask in public indoor settings. On July 28, 2021 CDPH aligned its [Guidance for the Use of Face Coverings](#) with the CDC and recommend universal masking in public indoor settings statewide. CDC and CDPH also endorsed that fully vaccinated people at higher risk for COVID-19 infection, as well as unvaccinated and not fully vaccinated persons consider wearing a mask in [non-public indoor settings](#). Household transmission and [small gatherings](#) are major drivers of COVID-19 transmission in Marin County.

*Boosters and Antibody Testing*

The Food and Drug Administration, Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), and CDC [have not approved or recommended](#) a [COVID-19 vaccine booster](#). Also, there is not a recommendation to initiate another vaccine series for individuals with undetectable antibodies. On May 19, 2021, the FDA issued a [safety communication](#) advising against antibody testing. The vaccine activates both humoral immunity (antibodies) and [cell-mediated immunity](#).

**Actions requested of providers**

*Delta Variant*

1. Proactively identify patients who have not received their COVID-19 vaccine and refer all eligible patients for COVID-19 vaccination immediately. Same-day appointments are available at [GetVaccinatedMarin.org](#).
  - a. If patients with access and functional needs (AFN) [e.g., transportation barrier, disability] need home-based COVID-19 vaccination, contact patients, confirm their interest, and refer patients ready for home-based COVID-19 vaccination to Marin County Public Health - [Request for Mobile Vaccine](#).
2. Join the CDPH Director, Dr. Tomás Aragón, on Monday, August 2 at 12 PM for a training on having proactive conversations with your patients and clients about COVID-19 vaccines. [Registration \(gotowebinar.com\)](#).
3. Educate patients on ways to reduce their risk and [prevent getting sick](#).

*Unvaccinated Workers in High-Risk Settings*

1. Review the State [Order](#) and implement requirements no later than August 23, 2021.
2. [Marin County Public Health](#) has BinaxNOW Test Kits available for facilities that have a [Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments \(CLIA\) waiver](#) and adhere to reporting requirements. Order via email - [mhoac@marincounty.org](mailto:mhoac@marincounty.org).

*Updated Masking Guidance*

1. Advise patients and staff to adhere to updated masking guidance to ensure universal masking in indoor public settings.
2. Encourage patients to consider masking in indoor non-public settings if at higher risk for COVID-19 infection and/or when gathering with unvaccinated persons.

*Boosters and Antibody Testing*

1. At this time, providers should not refer patients for COVID-19 booster vaccines.
2. Marin County Public Health currently advises against COVID-19 antibody testing.

Sincerely,

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