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Dear Resource Families:

As we find ourselves in the midst of yet another COVID-19 surge, we are writing to share an update on vaccination eligibility for our workforce and for the children and youth in our care. We hope this information will serve as a reminder to vaccinate yourselves and your loved ones – including the DCFS-involved infants, children, and youth in your care.

While vaccination is not 100% effective at preventing disease, public health officials indicate that it does significantly reduce the severity of symptoms and the number of deaths from COVID-19 infection. And as more studies have been conducted, we now know that vaccines are safe and effective in nearly all age groups and are particularly important in those with underlying health conditions (including pregnancy) and in those in older age groups.

COVID-19 vaccines are now available to all individuals ages 6 months and older. This includes children living with resource families who may receive vaccines as part of routine care. No separate approval is needed.

Appointments for COVID-19 vaccines may be scheduled via [My Turn - California COVID-19 Vaccine Scheduling & Notifications](#) or through healthcare providers such as Kaiser Permanente, Department of Health Services clinics, and other health groups. You may also access vaccinations and boosters through [LA County COVID-19 Vaccine - LA County Department of Public Health](#).

In addition to initial vaccination, **boosters** are now available for those ages 5 and older if more than 5 months have passed since the last vaccine. **Second boosters** are available 4 months after the last booster to individuals over age 50 and to those who have underlying health conditions or disabilities that put them at the highest risk of becoming very sick from COVID-19. Individuals should consult their primary care providers regarding eligibility for second boosters, but no documentation is required. The individual must only attest to age, qualifying condition, or medical provider recommendation.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Examples of conditions that warrant consideration for boosters include the following:

- Cancer, with a current weakened immune system
- Chronic kidney disease, stage 4 or above
- Chronic pulmonary disease, oxygen dependent
- Down syndrome
- Solid organ transplant, leading to a weakened immune system
- Pregnancy
- Sickle cell disease
- Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies (but not hypertension)
- Severe obesity with a BMI of more than 40
- Type 2 diabetes with A1c level greater than 7.5%
- Those with severe disabilities or illness if:
 - The individual is likely to develop severe life-threatening illness or death from COVID-19 infection
 - Acquiring COVID-19 will limit the individual's ability to get ongoing care or services vital to their well-being and survival
 - Providing adequate and timely COVID care will be particularly challenging as a result of the individual's disability.

Please visit [Covid-19 Vaccines \(ca.gov\)](https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Vaccines.aspx) for more information.

Los Angeles County residents with disabilities or without computer access may call 833-540-0473 between 8 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. seven days a week for assistance with appointments. Visit the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's website for more information at [LA County COVID-19 Vaccine - LA County Department of Public Health](https://www.lapublichealth.com/covid-19/vaccine).

We strongly encourage you to vaccinate yourselves and those in your care so that we can maximize protection and minimize the negative consequences of this challenging virus. If you have more questions or need help scheduling vaccination appointments, please do not hesitate to reach out to your assigned DCFS liaison.

Thank you,

Department of Children and Family Services
Los Angeles County