

Dear Members of the Community Vaccine Advisory Committee:

Today, Governor Gavin Newsom charged California's vaccine team (including experts from the California Health and Human Services Agency and the Department of Public Health) to develop a more centralized, streamlined, and simpler framework under which California's vaccine program can continue to build and improve while still keeping equity at the forefront of our efforts.

Together with our county partners, and thanks to your meaningful input, we are proud to have administered more than 2 million vaccines in California in less than two months. In pushing our system to accelerate vaccine administration, we also learned a lot of valuable lessons. The biggest challenges and constraints include:

1. **Data Lag and Data Collection:** We are able to know who has been allocated vaccines, but the data on whether vaccines have been administered is spotty.
2. **Confused Public:** With 61 local health jurisdictions (58 counties, plus 3 cities with their own health departments) with the ability to set their own eligibility requirements, Californians were understandably confused with the mixed messages they received.
3. **Decentralized Accountability and Responsibility:** One of the strengths of the public health system is its flexibility to adapt to the needs of local communities. However, when trying to mobilize the system en masse, the additional layers increase complexity and decrease responsiveness.

In short, there was no clear and easy way to tell people when it was their turn and where to go when it was. We are overcoming these challenges by:

4. **Simplifying** our eligibility framework
5. **Standardizing** vaccine information and data
6. **Increasing supply** by administering what we have in state and pushing the federal government to get additional vaccines

In simplifying eligibility, the state will implement a statewide standard under which health care workers, individuals 65+ and education and child care, emergency services and food and agriculture workers will be eligible to start making appointments to receive the vaccine, pending vaccine availability. These are the groups identified in Phase 1B, Tier 1. Future groups will become eligible based on age. This statewide standard will move in unison across all 58 counties. This will allow the state to scale capacity up and scale down quickly while also ensuring the vaccine goes to disproportionately impacted communities. Although we are actively working with our federal partners, we expect supply will continue to be constrained.

Additionally, all Californians will be able to use a statewide system called My Turn to determine their eligibility to make an appointment. If not yet eligible, users have the option to leave their contact information to be notified when it is their turn. That system, currently being piloted in Los Angeles and San Diego, will be one place where people

will be able to make appointments for vaccines. As with all new digital platforms, it is being piloted before expanding statewide in mid-February. The My Turn system will also automatically report vaccination information into state data systems. Providers will be required to either administer vaccines via the My Turn scheduling system or an electronic health record with an automatic data feed into the state's system.

To increase available supply to be administered based on existing in-state vaccines, the Department of Public Health announced a process that will allow for the reallocation of vaccines from providers who have not used at least 65% of their available supply on hand for a week and have not submitted a plan for administering the remaining vaccine to prioritized populations within four days of notice. With respect to standardizing vaccine allocation, distribution and data, we will have more to come on this later this week. As mentioned above, that system will be centered on a vaccine distribution system that targets vulnerable populations by putting greater supply in the communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19.

Thank you for all input you've offered during this process; together we can continue to build on our momentum, improve our systems, and empower Californians to get vaccinated when it's their turn.

Respectfully,

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