



## COVID-19 update

Keeping you informed

Blue Shield of California is committed to supporting our employer groups and plan sponsors through the COVID-19 pandemic with relevant information and updates. You can [stay informed with articles on our B2B COVID Resources site](#), which includes these topics from the past week:

- [COVID-19 testing under the Biden administration](#)
- [COVID-19 variants: early indicators](#)
- [A COVID-19 Plot Twist: Variants, Dr. Seth Glickman Answers Questions About the New Strains](#)
- [New vaccines: what you need to know](#)
- [Blue Shield's partnership with the state to manage COVID-19 vaccine rollout](#)

### Upcoming member communications

Blue Shield is keeping members informed of the latest developments with the virus, vaccines, testing, and how to stay safe during the pandemic by updating the [member site](#) regularly and providing timely communications.

Here's a look ahead at what we will be communicating to our members regarding the COVID-19 vaccine:

- Today, we'll send a [communication from Blue Shield President and CEO Paul Markovich](#) announcing Blue Shield's partnership with the state to support vaccination distribution and reminders on how to stay safe while waiting for a vaccine.
- Next week, members in the below categories will receive a communication to inform them that they or someone on their plan may be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine based on the state's list of priority groups, that currently includes:
  - People over 65

- Education and childcare essential workers
  - Emergency services essential workers
  - Food and agriculture essential workers
- Next week, another communication will be sent to members not in the above categories addressing when they may be eligible for the vaccine and what to do in the meantime to stay safe.

Member resources are updated [here](#), including comprehensive FAQs regarding the COVID-19 vaccine.

## Expanding retail pharmacy vaccinations

In a [press release on February 2](#), the White House announced plans to start sending vaccine doses directly to retail pharmacies beginning February 11, 2021. The initial shipment of 1 million doses will include CVS and Rite Aid pharmacies in California, at locations in the following cities:

Modesto, Agoura Hills, Bakersfield, Carmel, Carlsbad, Chula Vista, Clovis, Eureka, Huntington Beach, Irvine, La Jolla, Los Angeles, Monterey, Newport Beach, San Diego, San Francisco, Sonoma, Sunnyvale, Ventura, and Yuba City.

To access the vaccine at CVS, scheduling and appointment availability can be accessed through the [CVS Health website](#) and is anticipated to start on February 9, 2021.

Please note that the administration of vaccines through retail pharmacies follows the phased approach determined by federal, state, and local public health departments. Learn more [here](#).

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