



COVID-19 update

Keeping you informed

Blue Shield is committed to helping California get vaccinated equitably and safely

We understand the urgency that Californians feel in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine and urge everyone to continue following the federal, state and local health guidelines already in place for vaccinations and preventive measures.

Today, [Blue Shield shared additional information](#) on our partnership with the state as a third party administrator (TPA) to support the vaccination effort. Through an enhanced COVID-19 vaccine provider network, we will work in partnership with healthcare professionals and others who can help us ensure COVID-19 vaccinations are made available efficiently and equitably for everyone. This is consistent with our commitment as a nonprofit health plan to help all Californians have access to quality, affordable health care.

Understanding Blue Shield's TPA role

We will continue to share more information on our work as a TPA and the COVID-19 vaccine network as it becomes available. Here are some of the essentials:

- Blue Shield of California has entered into a contract with the state as the Third-Party Administrator (TPA) to build a statewide vaccine network to ensure the equitable delivery of current and anticipated supply to Californians.
- Blue Shield of California will do this work at cost, without making a profit from our contract with the state. We are committing our company resources to help the state manage what we believe is the most significant issue facing the health and well-being of Californians and our state.
- The state will be responsible for determining eligibility and priority.
- In this partnership, Blue Shield will serve all Californians without any prioritization for our own customers or employees.

- All Californians will be able to register for updates and to schedule vaccination appointments on this network through [My Turn](#).

How Blue Shield is supporting employers to get their workforce vaccinated

Prioritization phases and allocation of vaccine doses are determined by state and federal government authorities. Our partnership with the state will accelerate the vaccination rate for all Californians, which is consistent with BSC's mission, without preferential consideration for Blue Shield customers.

Vaccination availability in California is prioritized by age and risk. This means workforces will generally be vaccinated over an extended period – anticipating through summer 2021 - as employees become eligible based on their age and health conditions. Blue Shield has included vaccination policies for our own return to work planning, and [encourages employers to do the same](#).

Blue Shield is providing essential information to employers and employees (members) regarding vaccinations: [Member resources](#) | [Employer resources](#)

We've also put together this [Vaccine Toolkit for Employers](#), which pulls together a number of relevant resources into one place.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also provides [a toolkit for employers](#).

Employers with essential workers in certain sectors will be eligible for the vaccination sooner than others

California's phased approach to vaccine distribution has prioritized workers in four sectors:

- health care workers are part of Phase 1A;
- workers in education and childcare, emergency services, and food and agriculture are part of Phase 1B.

An earlier version of the state's phased approach included additional tiers in Phase 1B for more employer sectors such as transportation or infrastructure. The [updated prioritization framework](#) instead focuses on high risk populations based on age and medical conditions. Vaccinations for individuals in this next phase begin March 15, 2021.

Blue Shield members, and all Californians, are encouraged to [register on My Turn](#) to know when they are eligible to be vaccinated, and to schedule an appointment when available.

Until it is their turn, we encourage everyone – especially essential workers – to maintain safety protocols: wearing a mask, maintaining distance, washing hands. Essential workers may [request home test kits](#) to help reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19.

Stay up to date with tools for the trusted advisor

COVID-19 vaccine information is changing daily, with updates from federal, state, and local authorities. Blue Shield is keeping up with these changes, providing relevant information and resources to our respective member, employer, broker, and public audiences.

- [Our COVID-19 resources site](#) for brokers and employers contains articles, FAQs, member support materials, and a county and state lookup tool to connect you with a broad suite of information. We encourage you to bookmark this page to keep up with the latest on COVID-19 and Blue Shield's response.
- Information for members can be found on the main Blue Shield of California page, [here](#).
- Our [News Center](#) will continue to lead with announcements regarding the TPA work. Subscribe for updates to your inbox [here](#).

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