

To: Medi-Cal and Cal MediConnect\* network participants

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Senior Director, Provider Network Management

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Subject: **COVID-19 All Plan Letters – APL 20-022 vaccination requirement revisions**

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The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) has issued several All Plan Letters (APLs) to Medi-Cal managed care plans (MCPs) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Recently, APL 20-022 was revised with recommendations regarding COVID-19 vaccination requirements. We are sharing a summary of these APL guidelines with you to ensure you are aware of the information.

Blue Shield of California Promise Health Plan (Blue Shield Promise) also publishes other [COVID-19 information](#), some of which pertains to network Medi-Cal service providers.

#### **APL 20-022**

#### **COVID-19 Vaccine Administration**

Updates include:

- A third dose of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, taken at least 28 days after the second dose, is recommended for people with moderately or severely suppressed immune systems.
- A booster shot of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, take at least six months after the completion of the primary series, is recommended for individuals aged 65 and older, residents in long-term care settings, and individuals aged 50-64 with underlying medical issues.
- Individuals aged 18-49 with underlying medical conditions and individuals aged 18-64 who have an increased risk of COVID-19 exposure or transmission due to their occupational or institutional setting may also receive a booster Pfizer vaccine shot at least 6 months after their primary series, based on their individual risk and benefit.

Two updates relate to amended public health orders:

- [Vaccination requirements for visitors to long-term and acute settings](#) have been amended to include adult and senior care residential facilities.
- [The definition of "workers" at adult and senior care facilities](#) has been expanded, thus expanding the requirement for who must be vaccinated by November 30, 2021.

This summary is only meant as a brief description of the APL guidelines. Please see the entire APL for the complete requirements. The full text of all DHCS managed care APLs may be found at this URL: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/formsandpubs/Pages/AllPlanLetters.aspx>. Links to the DHCS.ca.gov website will take you off of the Blue Shield Promise website.

If you have questions about applying any of the information in this notice to Blue Shield Promise members, please call our Provider Services Department at **(800) 468-9935** from 6 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

\*Cal MediConnect network participants are responsible for identifying and applying the guidance and requirements that pertain to their patients.