

To: Medi-Cal and Cal MediConnect* network participants

From: Manuel T.G. Enriquez 
Senior Director, Provider Network Management

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Subject: **COVID-19 All Plan Letters – APL 20-022 Updates and APL 21-010, Medi-Cal COVID-19 Vaccination Incentive Program**

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 to include new guidance on face coverings and vaccination requirements. In addition, APL 21-010 was issued regarding the Medi-Cal COVID-19 Vaccination Incentive Program. 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 21-010

Medi-Cal COVID-19 Vaccination Incentive Program

For the service period of September 1, 2021 through February 28, 2022, MCPs can earn incentives from DHCS for developing and implementing Vaccination Response Plans to encourage Medi-Cal members to get vaccinated against COVID-19. DHCS has also allocated funds to support member vaccination incentives such as grocery store gift cards.

APL 20-022

COVID-19 Vaccine Administration – revised

The following requirements have been ordered by the State Public Health Officer of the California Department of Public Health:

- [COVID-19 testing requirements for unvaccinated health and congregate care workers](#)
 - Unvaccinated and incompletely vaccinated workers in acute and long-term healthcare settings must be tested for SARS-CoV-2 weekly.
 - Unvaccinated and incompletely vaccinated workers in other congregate healthcare settings must be tested for SARS-CoV-2 bi-weekly.
- [Face covering guidance in response to COVID-19 variants and population vaccination rates](#)
 - Effective July 28, 2021, masks are required to be worn in specified indoor settings, regardless of vaccination status.
- [Requirements for visitors in acute health care and long-term care settings](#)
 - Effective August 11, 2021, all visitors must either provide proof of vaccination or a negative SARS-CoV-2 test in order to be admitted to indoor visitations in specified settings.
 - Acceptable proof of vaccination includes a Vaccination Record Card, a photo of a Vaccination Record Card stored on a phone or a separate document, documentation from a healthcare provider, or a digital record that includes a QR code.

- Visitors must also be masked, wear personal protective equipment as needed, and physically distance themselves from personnel and all others outside of their group.
- [Health care worker vaccine requirement](#)
 - By September 30, 2021, all workers who provide services or work at specified healthcare facilities must have their first dose of a one-dose vaccine regimen or their second dose of a two-dose vaccine regimen.
 - Those who qualify for an exception must be tested either weekly or bi-weekly, depending on the facility type. (See testing requirements above.)

This summary is only meant as a brief description of the APL guidelines. Please see the entire APLs for their 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.