

**Hospital Follow-Up Questions to Nov. 13 COVID-19 Vaccination Call
With the California Department of Public Health**

Q: For multi-county entities (MCEs), can the allocation for the entire system be shipped to one central location and then distributed to the individual medical centers/administration sites? (Can this centralized site be a central drug distribution warehouse that will then distribute vaccine to the sites?)

A: Although this is possible it is not recommended by Pfizer. There are no guidelines for re-packing the ultra-cold vaccine at -80C. It can be stored at 2-8C for 120 hours, so could be shipped to other sites and administered within five days. The minimum shipment is 975 doses, which also creates logistics challenges. The company is recommending that the vaccine be shipped to the site where the vaccine will be administered. Each site that will be administering the Pfizer vaccine can order the vaccine to be shipped directly to the administration site. Re-distribution might be easier to do with a different vaccine that does not require ultra-cold storage.

Q: Alternatively, can the MCE who has the allocation order from the manufacturer for direct shipment to each respective hospital?

A: Yes, see above.

Q: How can the system individuals for the MCE be included on CDPH's email distribution list for hospitals?

A: Once the list of MCEs has been determined, we will work with each MCE to make sure we have the correct contacts.

Q: As an MCE, my understanding from the call was that the MCE could enroll as an organization and then list/enroll their hospitals at the same time within their single enrollment step – is that correct? If CDPH is sending out an email next week directly to the acute care hospitals, I would like to have this clarification so the acute care hospitals are not confused regarding enrollment.

A: If you have a consolidated management structure, with a Chief Medical Officer (CMO) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), or chief fiduciary/legal official, that oversee multiple locations, they must complete the enrollment and sign the CDC provider agreement, and then the individual locations will complete their own section of the provider enrollment form. Through this process, your organization's leadership does not have to sign enrollment agreements multiple times for all sites under your organization's umbrella. If your hospital is independently managed, then each site would need to be enrolled individually, as an organization, with each hospital leadership (CMO and CEO) completing and agreeing with the program's participation agreement. The enrollment process is independent of the MCE designation process. Once CDPH has determined which entities will be designated MCEs, they will be "tagged" on our end for vaccine allocation purposes.

Q: Al Hendrickson mentioned that the digital data logger that comes with the shipping container from Pfizer can be used going forward to monitor the temperature if a site continues to utilize the shipping container to store the vaccine at ultra-cold temperatures for several days. Is that correct (or does the site need to purchase and install its own temperature-monitoring device in the box if it will be used to store the vaccine for several days)?

A: The CDC stated in their 11 November "Office Hours" that the thermal shipper's digital data logger (DDL) can be used by the site for continued temperature monitoring of the shipper. After the site has determined there was no temperature excursion during the shipment from Pfizer, they will turn off the DDL. Once the shipper is re-iced, the DDL can be turned back on. The site does not have to purchase a DDL to monitor the temperature in Pfizer's thermal shipper.

Q: When we get our allocation of COVID vaccine, should we feel free to use the entire allocation on our hospital staff assuming that we would get additional allocation for the second dose or should we reserve half the stock we get in the allocation for the second administration in approximately 21 days?

A: The initial shipment is to be used solely for the first dose and should not be reserved for the second dose.

Q: Can you clarify how we get the information for the provider enrollment? Could you please provide me the link or direct me on who could assist me?

A: The link and additional information for the provider enrollment will be forthcoming this week to all general acute care hospitals.

Q: Was the Nov. 13 9-10 a.m. CDPH COVID-19 Vaccination call recorded? If so, can you share the information on how to access the recording of the call?

A: We presently do not have a full recording. We are reaching out to AT&T to see if there is a full recording.