



MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 23, 2021

TO: Hospitals, Skilled Nursing Facilities and other Long Term Care Facilities

FROM: Gail Newel, MD, MPH
County of Santa Cruz Health Officer

SUBJECT: Covid-19 Vaccination of seniors and patients being discharged to long term care facilities

People age 65 and older and residents of long term care facilities are at the highest risk for severe morbidity and mortality from Covid-19 infection. Fortunately, the majority of our residents in these categories have been vaccinated with at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine and our hospitalization and death rates from Covid-19 are declining rapidly. It is imperative that we vaccinate the remaining unvaccinated individuals age 65 and older and those being discharged to long term care facilities to extend vaccine protection to these high-risk individuals to reduce the spread of Covid-19 to patients, other long term care facility residents and facility staff.

We are asking all acute care hospitals in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz Counties to immediately institute protocols to offer Covid-19 vaccine to all unvaccinated patients age 65 and older before discharge to home as well as to all patients before discharge to a skilled nursing facility or other long term care facility. Our local health departments commit to being active partners with facilities to develop plans for providing second doses for individuals in long term care facilities and will prioritize seniors being discharged to home to ensure they can complete the vaccine series.

We appreciate your help and support in protecting our highest risk residents in Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz Counties.

cc: Rebecca Rosen, Hospital Council of Northern California