



South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

Emergency Operations Center (EOC): EOC@DDSN.SC.GOV; 803-898-9754

SITUATION REPORT NO. 49, DATE: AUGUST 27, 2021

EVENT: COVID-19 PANDEMIC

I. PFIZER/BIONTECH VACCINE RECEIVES FULL APPROVAL BY THE FDA

On August 23, the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine was given full approval by the FDA. The vaccine will now be marketed as Comirnaty (koe-mir-na-tee) for the prevention of COVID-19 in individuals 16 years of age and older. The vaccine continues to be available under Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for those aged 12-15.

The full approval came as time allowed more study of the vaccine and its side effects. As additional data was gathered, the FDA increased in confidence in the effectiveness of the vaccine.

The full release from the FDA can be found [here](#).

II. SLIDE DECK AND FAQ FROM DDSN/DHEC INFECTION CONTROL WEBINAR IS NOW AVAILABLE

Thank you to all who participated in the DDSN/DHEC Infection Control Webinar with Dr. Jane Kelly, Rebecca Walker, and Hannah Ruegner of DHEC on August 18, 2021. We had a record number of logins to the webinar.

The [slide deck](#) and [FAQ](#) for the webinar are now available to download.

III. PPE NOW AVAILABLE TO INDIVIDUALS SERVED BY DDSN & OUR NETWORK

Thanks to a generous donation of personal protective equipment (PPE) [Pro Pac](#), a company out of North Charleston who sells disaster supplies and a contractor/partner of the Disabilities Board of Charleston County, DDSN is availing PPE supplies including hand sanitizer, surface and hand wipes, and masks to individuals served and their families. The COVID-19 Public Health Emergency (PHE) has strained many business operations and undoubtedly placed an added financial burden on everyone household. While supplies last, we are availing PPE to Early Interventionists (EI) and Case Managers to share with those they serve with a need for these vital supplies.

If any EI or Case Manager needs these PPE supplies, contact Robb McBurney at Robert.mcburney@ddsn.sc.gov to arrange a pick up or delivery.

IV. RESOURCES FOR ADDRESSING VACCINE HESITANCY

Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO), and National Institute of Health (NIH) are among many health organizations reinforcing the importance of vaccination for COVID-19. Vaccine hesitancy, however, is significant among health care workers. While this phenomenon is not new, its important fact-based information rooted in science be shared to encourage more individuals to participate in vaccination for COVID-19. Below are resources intended to assist our network and other readers mitigate vaccine hesitancy.

Vaccine Misinformation Management Field Guide

COVID Communications Cheat Sheet

The Importance of COVID-19 Vaccination for Healthcare Personnel (from the CDC)

Long-Term Care Facility Toolkit: Preparing for COVID-19 Vaccination at Your Facility (from the CDC)

V. PRESIDENT BIDEN ORDERS ALL NURSING HOME STAFF TO GET VACCINATED

The Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) in collaboration with the CDC, is developing an emergency regulation requiring staff vaccinations within the nation's more than 15,000 Medicare and Medicaid funded nursing homes. You can find the CMS announcement [here](#).

To date there has been no indication that other types of long term care facilities or ICF/IID facilities will be included in the order that is being drafted. The American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) issued a statement to that effect as well. You can find that statement [here](#).

VI. LLR TO DRAFT SC ALTERNATIVE TO OSHA EMERGENCY TEMPORARY STANDARD

The SC Department of Labor Licensing and Regulation (LLR), the agency tasked with state level OSHA enforcement, announced that it will adopt a SC alternative to the OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard on COVID-19 that went into effect last month.

As a state plan state, South Carolina is required to adopt standards that are the same as or at least as effective as the requirements of federal OSHA standards.

Please see the LLR announcement [here](#).

VII. US TO APPROVE VACCINE BOOSTER SHOTS IN THE FALL

The CDC has announced that they will authorize COVID-19 vaccine booster shots beginning in the fall. The booster shots will be made available on a timetable to be set by the CDC and the FDA. The plan includes booster shots at least eight (8) months after first receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. The first Americans who will be eligible for the boosters are expected to be immunocompromised individuals.

An FAQ on vaccine boosters is available [here](#). Information from the Department of Health & Environmental Control (DHEC) can be viewed [here](#).

VIII. REPORT STAFF POSITIVE CASES TO DDSN VIA HRST SYSTEM

Providers are reminded that they must report staff positive COVID-19 tests to DDSN via the HRST system. If the HRST system is not available to you or you are unable to use the HRST system, report the cases to EOC@ddsn.sc.gov.

IX. PROJECT FIRSTLINE WEB SITE AND VIDEOS UPDATED

Project Firstline is the CDC's national training collaborative for healthcare infection control. The site contains videos and multimedia resources that can aid infection control Safety Coordinators in training their workforce on the very latest information on infection control.

The web site has been updated recently with new information including vaccine training for healthcare staff. The latest video posted centers on training for nurses on vaccine administration and multi dose vial safety. Project Firstline can and should be part of your infection control education plan.

The Project Firstline web site can be found [here](#).