



South Carolina Department of Disabilities and Special Needs

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SITUATION REPORT NO. 52, DATE: NOVEMBER 9, 2021

EVENT: COVID-19 PANDEMIC

I. CMS PUBLISHES FINAL RULE MANDATING VACCINES FOR SOME SC LONG TERM CARE WORKERS

On Friday the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services issued a final rule mandating vaccines for 21 specific health care settings, including Intermediate Care Facilities for people with Intellectual Disabilities. The Final Rule does not cover other DDSN residential service lines. The rule takes effect December 4, 2021. You can find the final rule [here](#).

Following the announcement of the final rule, Governor Henry McMaster issued an Executive Order in which he directed cabinet agencies in SC to not comply with the CMS final Rule. McMaster's Executive Order can be found [here](#).

II. J&J AND MODERNA BOOSTERS APPROVED FOR LTC POPULATIONS AND STAFF

Last week, the FDA and the CDC approved booster shots for Johnson & Johnson and Moderna. They also approved "mix and match" booster strategies that allow for boosters from different manufacturers than the original dose received.

The statement from the CDC can be found [here](#). The announcement from the FDA can be found [here](#). CDC's booster guidance is [here](#). DHEC's booster guidance can be found [here](#). A graphic showing booster eligibility can be found [here](#). If you have any questions concerning boosters, contact Robb McBurney at robert.mcburney@ddsn.sc.gov

III. HHS EXTENDS THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY TO JANUARY

On Friday, October 15, HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra extended the date for the end of the declared COVID-19 Public Health Emergency to January 18, 2022. The extension affects the flexibilities extended by HHS due to the COVID-19 pandemic. But HHS can limit or end the flexibilities at any time. The previous PHE extension was set to expire on October 20, 2021. See the renewal notice [here](#).

IV. FDA AND CDC APPROVE PFIZER VACCINE FOR KIDS AGES 5-11

The FDA and CDC have now approved the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for children ages 5-11. The dose is different for the 5-11 population. Just as adults, kids can get the flu shot and COVID-19 vaccine at the same time. You can view the CDC guidance on the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for children at this [link](#).

V. FLU VACCINES ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2021-2022 FLU SEASON

Flu vaccines are now available for the 2021-22 flu season. CDC points out that flu vaccines can be administered at the same time COVID-19 vaccines are given. Full information on flu vaccines and flu season can be found in the [Flu Season FAQ](#) from the CDC.

Information regarding flu vaccines and other information related to flu season in South Carolina can be found at DHEC's flu dashboard, [here](#).

VI. COVID-19 INFECTION RATES GO DOWN, VACCINATIONS INCREASE

The CDC's weekly COVID DATA Tracker Survey shows a decrease in COVID-19 cases across the nation and an increase in people who have been fully vaccinated. Currently, 58.2 % of the United State population is fully vaccinated. You can find the COVID Data Tracker Survey [here](#).

In South Carolina, COVID-19 cases also continue to decline. Here in South Carolina, 55.5 % of the eligible population is fully vaccinated. You can find DHEC's COVID-19 Information page [here](#). DHEC's Vaccination dashboard is [here](#).