LACDPH Telebriefing April 15, 2021

Barbara Ferrer, PHD, MPH, MEd, Director Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Robert Gilchick, MD, MPH, Child and Adolescent Health Section Chief Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

Nava Yeganeh, MD, MPH, Medical Epidemiologist Acute Communicable Disease Control Program

Andrea Kim, PhD, MPH, Chief, Education Sector Unit Acute Communicable Disease Control Program.

Situational Awareness

- County cases/hospitalization/deaths numbers have stabilized
- Cases under 500 and hospitalization around 500/ day; deaths declining
- Test positivity rate below 1.5% for over two weeks
- We will be staying in the Orange Tier
- For us to move to Yellow Tier, we would have to drop from 3.2/100,000 to below 2/100,000 –
 not likely to happen because there are reopenings, more testing
- Even though vaccination numbers are high, they aren't high enough
- As of today everyone can be vaccinated 16 and older, which means there are now 8.3 million people who are eligible
- 700 sites are open -- 500,000 doses on average/week
- If the number of doses continues, 85 percent people could be vaccinated by end of June and herd immunity could be reached
- County is following CDC and FDA recommendations to pause administering J&J vaccine

New Health Officer Order effective today

First time ever there will be a distinction based on vaccination

Indoor gatherings (still STRONGLY DISCOURAGED)

- o Max 25% capacity or 25 people, whichever is fewer
- Must wear masks at all times
- No food or beverage allowed unless everyone is fully vaccinated (two weeks out from vaccination)

Outdoor gatherings

- o 50 people maximum
- Masks and physical distancing at all times, unless everyone is vaccinated

Private events (meetings, receptions, conferences)

Indoor

- Only permitted if every guest has tested negative or can show proof of full vaccination
- o Max of 150 people
- Negative test, but not vaccinated: must still wear mask

Outdoor

 100 people unless everyone has tested negative or shows proof of vaccination, then it goes up to 300

Revisions to IHE Guidance

- Changes to State that County is are aligned with
- Spectators at collegiate athletic events are permitted in alignment with the outdoor seated protocols or live seated protocols
- Graduation: You can use already published State guidance. We're not going to publish our own protocol
- However, it must be aligned with County's outdoor live seated event protocol and be in compliance with all the requirements
- Outdoor seated live event guidance: more than 250 people, you are required to submit a plan to the LACDPH.... Link is in protocol Appendix Z

Questions and Answers

Q: What is LA County's position on the 6 feet distance rule to 3 feet? Any guidance on inspecting vaccinations from other countries?

A. Vaccinations: we are accepting proof of full vaccination from other countries.

Distance: Things will be very different in the Fall because you will have a population that will be primarily vaccinated. That changes the need for physical distancing. We're sticking with the research and staying at 6 feet for now.

Q. Is the County going to require people to be vaccinated to attend an event?

A. These vaccines are still under Emergency Use Authorization and we aren't creating a public mandate. But we're not opposed to institutions requiring vaccinations, especially in congregate living situations.

More questions: (877) 777-5799