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PIN 21-49-ASC  
**(Supersedes in part PIN 21-17.2-ASC)**

TO: ALL ADULT AND SENIOR CARE PROGRAM RESIDENTIAL  
LICENSEES

FROM: ***Original signed by Kevin Gaines***  
KEVIN GAINES  
Deputy Director  
Community Care Licensing Division

SUBJECT: **UPDATED GUIDANCE ON COMMUNAL DINING, GROUP ACTIVITIES,  
ENTERTAINMENT, NON-ESSENTIAL SERVICES, AND  
TRANSPORTATION DURING THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019  
(COVID-19) PANDEMIC**

**Provider Information Notice (PIN) Summary**

PIN 21-49-ASC supersedes in part [PIN 21-17.2-ASC](#), dated May 14, 2021, and provides specific updates to communal dining and entertainment. PIN 21-49-ASC also provides new guidance related to transportation of residents and maintains guidance on non-essential services and group activities.

***Please post/keep this PIN in the facility where residents can easily access it and distribute the PIN Summary for Residents (located at the end of this PIN) to residents and, if applicable, their representatives.***

This PIN supersedes [PIN 21-17.2-ASC](#), dated May 14, 2021, in part, and provides specific updates to communal dining and entertainment. PIN 21-49-ASC provides new guidance on transportation of residents and continues guidance on non-essential services and group activities.

The Delta variant, which is very highly contagious and possibly more virulent, is currently the most common variant causing new infections in California. Unvaccinated persons are more likely to get infected and spread the virus, which is transmitted through the air. Most current hospitalizations and deaths are among unvaccinated persons.

All COVID-19 vaccines continue to provide significant protection against severe illness, hospitalization, and death. However, certain populations are seeing a slight decrease in vaccine effectiveness against infection over time and therefore booster doses of vaccines are recommended. They are part of most childhood and adult vaccine series to ensure a person maintains optimal immunity against infection from a disease. COVID-19 booster vaccines are recommended following the primary vaccination series as outlined below.

A Booster dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine is recommended if the individual is:

- Ages 18 years and older; and
- Received a second dose at least six months ago.

A Booster dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is recommended if the individual is:

- Ages 18 years and older; and
- Received a first dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at least two months ago.

Visit the [California Department of Public Health website](#) for more information on vaccines or boosters.

Transmission prevention measures must continue for the protection of the residents and workforce in all adult and senior care facilities. Fully vaccinated residents and facility staff should continue to follow current guidance to protect themselves and others, including wearing a [well-fitting face mask](#), avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces, covering coughs and sneezes, proper hand hygiene, and following guidance for personal protective equipment (PPE) use and COVID-19 testing.

**Important!** “[Fully vaccinated](#)” means two (2) weeks after receiving the second dose in a 2-dose series, like the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two (2) weeks after a single-dose vaccine, like Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen vaccine.

Licensees should continue to follow guidance in all applicable California Department of Social Services (CDSS) [PINs](#) in addition to guidance or instructions from:

- Health care providers;
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#);
- [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#);
- [California Department of Developmental Services \(CDDS\)](#); and
- [Local public health departments](#).

*If there are differing requirements between the most current CDC, CDPH, CDSS, CDDS, and local public health department guidance or health orders, **licensees should follow the strictest requirements**. However, there may be times where a licensee will need to contact their Regional Office for assistance in reconciling these differences, especially if the strictest requirements appear to be in conflict with the best interest of residents.*

## **COMMUNAL DINING, GROUP ACTIVITIES, AND NON-ESSENTIAL SERVICES**

**Note:** SUPERSEDES guidance in the *Communal Dining, Group Activities, and Non-Essential Services* section in [PIN 21-17.2-ASC](#), dated May 14, 2021.

Facilities may not prohibit residents from eating in the same room and/or at the same table, unless those residents are on isolation or quarantine precautions. Facilities may not prohibit residents from participating in group activities so long as there is appropriate hand hygiene, unless those residents are on isolation or quarantine precautions. Use of face masks for residents participating in communal dining and group activities should be determined as follows:

- If vaccination status cannot be determined, the safest practice is for all participants to wear a well-fitting face mask (except while actively eating or drinking).
- If all residents participating in communal dining or a group activity are fully vaccinated, then residents can choose to not wear a face mask.

Residents who are not on isolation or quarantine precautions retain the right to participate in communal dining and group activities, regardless of their vaccination status. However, during an outbreak in the facility, the local public health department may require cessation of all communal dining and group activities until transmission has been contained.

Facilities should consider cohorting groups of residents that consistently participate in communal dining or group activities together to minimize the number of people exposed if one or more of the residents is later identified as COVID-19 positive. “Cohorting” means a stable group that stays together for all activities (e.g., meals, recreation, etc.), and avoids contact with people outside their group.

Regardless of their vaccination status, any resident that tested positive for COVID-19 must isolate, and any resident who was exposed to COVID-19 must quarantine to a single room (if available). Residents under isolation or quarantine, regardless of their vaccination status, should not participate in communal dining, group activities, or access shared facility amenities, equipment, or non-essential services (e.g., salon and barber services) until:

- They have been cleared by the local public health department or health care provider, or

- They meet the conditions to discontinue isolation or quarantine:
  - Residents who test positive and are symptomatic:
    - At least 1 day (24 hours) has passed since recovery, defined as resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **AND**
    - Resolution in respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough and shortness of breath) **AND**
    - At least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
  - Residents who test positive and are asymptomatic:
    - 10 days from the date of their positive test, as long as they have not subsequently developed symptoms, in which case the symptoms-based criteria for discontinuing isolation should be applied.
  - Residents who were exposed and asymptomatic:
    - They are cleared by the local public health department or health care provider; or
    - At least 14 days have passed since the most recent date of exposure to COVID-19 with or without testing.

Licensees must uphold the personal rights of residents by allowing residents, and their visitors, to participate in communal dining and activities if no other residents are at the table, the table is spaced at least six (6) feet apart from other tables, and the visitor wears a well-fitting face mask. Visitors shall be allowed to remove their face mask while actively eating or drinking and must continue to follow guidance in [PIN 21-38-ASC](#) at all other times. Licensees should have staff clean and disinfect surfaces after each visit in the communal dining area and activities area. In circumstances where physical space does not allow for appropriate distance, licensees are encouraged to schedule and/or stagger visits to allow for proper distancing.

## ENTERTAINMENT

**Note:** SUPERSEDES guidance in the *Entertainment* section in [PIN 21-17.2-ASC](#), dated May 14, 2021.

Entertainers are considered visitors and must follow the standards indicated in [PIN 21-38-ASC](#) and [PIN 21-40-ASC](#). Entertainment involving singing is not recommended since it may generate respiratory droplets and aerosols which increase the risk of spreading COVID-19. It is recommended to use alternative methods, such as prerecorded music or instruments that can be played while a well-fitting face mask is worn. If the entertainment involves singing, the entertainer must wear a well-fitting face mask and residents should be encouraged to wear a well-fitting face mask during the performance, regardless of vaccination status.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Residents may share transportation to activities, medical appointments, etc. without the need to physically distance, unless the resident is under isolation or quarantine precautions. The use of face masks for residents sharing transportation and staff should be determined as follows:

- If vaccination status cannot be determined, the safest practice is for all residents to wear a well-fitting face mask.
- If all residents are fully vaccinated, then residents can choose to not wear a face mask.
- If residents who are not fully vaccinated are present, then all residents should wear a well-fitting face mask.
- Staff involved in transportation are required to wear a well-fitting face mask regardless of vaccination status.

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

The following resources are available online:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
  - [Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)
- California Department of Social Services (CDSS)
  - [Community Care Licensing Division homepage](#) (includes all COVID-19 related materials (Provider Information Notices (PINs) and other resources)
- California Department of Public Health (CDPH)
  - [All COVID-19 Guidance](#)
- [Local County Health Departments](#)

If you have any questions, please contact your local [ASC Regional Office](#).

### **PIN Summary for Residents**

#### **A Companion Guide for Provider Information Notice (PIN) 21-49-ASC, Updated Guidance on Communal Dining, Group Activities, Entertainment, and Transportation During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic**

We have prepared this **PIN Summary for Residents** as a companion to **PIN 21-49-ASC** to inform you of guidance we've provided to your care providers concerning your care. This PIN provided updates to [PIN 21-17.2-ASC](#), dated May 14, 2021.

The Delta variant, which is very highly contagious and possibly more virulent, is currently the most common variant causing new infections in California. Unvaccinated persons are more likely to get infected and spread the virus, which is transmitted through the air. Most current hospitalizations and deaths are among unvaccinated persons.

All COVID-19 vaccines continue to provide significant protection against severe illness, hospitalization, and death. COVID-19 booster vaccines are recommended following the primary vaccination series as outlined below.

A Booster dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine is recommended if the individual is:

- Ages 18 years and older; and
- Received a second dose at least six months ago.

A Booster dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine is recommended if the individual is:

- Ages 18 years and older; and
- Received a first dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine at least two months ago.

Transmission prevention measures must continue for your protection and the protection of the other residents and facility staff in all adult and senior care facilities. Even if you are fully vaccinated, you should continue to wear a [well-fitting face mask](#) (i.e., completely covers the nose and mouth and fits snugly against the sides of the face), avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces, cover your coughs and sneezes, wash your hands often or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, and follow guidance for personal protective equipment (PPE) use and COVID-19 testing.

**Important!** "[Fully vaccinated](#)" means two (2) weeks after receiving the second dose in a 2-dose series, like the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two (2) weeks after a single-dose vaccine, like Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine.

## **COMMUNAL DINING, GROUP ACTIVITIES, AND NON-ESSENTIAL SERVICES**

- You may eat in the same room (including same table) and participate in group activities with other residents as long as you are not on isolation or quarantine precautions. Even if you are fully vaccinated, you should still perform hand hygiene.
- You should wear a well-fitting face mask during communal dining or a group activity as follows:
  - If the licensee of your facility does not know your vaccination status, or another participant's vaccination status is not known, it is safest for everyone to wear a well-fitting face mask (except while eating or drinking).
  - If you and all other residents participating in communal dining or a group activity are fully vaccinated, you can choose to not wear a face mask.
- The licensee of your facility cannot keep you or other residents from participating in communal dining or a group activity, or keep you separated from other residents, based on your vaccination status. You are allowed to participate in communal dining and group activities if you are fully vaccinated, partially vaccinated, or unvaccinated, as long as you are not under isolation or quarantine. However, during an outbreak in the facility, the local public health department may restrict all communal dining and group activities until transmission has been contained.
- Visitors can join you in communal dining and activities if no other residents are at the table, your table is spaced at least six (6) feet apart from other tables, and your visitor wears a well-fitting face mask. Visitors must be allowed to remove their face mask while actively eating or drinking, but they are required to wear a face mask at all other times while indoors. Facility staff should also clean and disinfect where you are seated before you are seated and after you finish in the communal dining area and activities area. In circumstances where physical space does not allow for appropriate distance, the licensee of your facility is encouraged to schedule and/or stagger visits to allow for proper distancing.

## **ENTERTAINMENT**

- Entertainers are considered visitors, so they must follow the same safety protocols as visitors. Entertainment involving singing is not recommended since it may generate respiratory droplets and aerosols which increase the risk of spreading COVID-19. It is recommended to use alternative methods, such as prerecorded music or instruments that can be played while a well-fitting face mask is worn. If the entertainment involves singing, the entertainer must wear a well-fitting face mask and you are encouraged to wear a well-fitting face mask during the performance, regardless of your vaccination status.

## TRANSPORTATION

- If you are not under isolation or quarantine, then you can share transportation to activities, medical appointments, etc. with other residents without the need to physically distance.
- If the licensee of your facility does not know your vaccination status, or another resident's vaccination status is not known, it is safest for all residents to wear a well-fitting face mask.
- If you and all other residents are fully vaccinated, then you and other residents can choose to not wear a face mask.
- If you or any other resident are not fully vaccinated, then all residents should wear a well-fitting face mask.
- Facility staff involved in transportation are required to wear a well-fitting face mask regardless of vaccination status.

***Your care providers, the licensee of your facility, and your local Long-Term Care [Ombudsman](https://www.ombudsman.org/) (call 1-800-510-2020) are available to answer your questions.***