



MEMORANDUM

To: Robin Stieler, Clerk of the Board

From: Chairman Andrew Do, First District
Vice Chairman Doug Chaffee, Fourth District

Subject: Supplemental Item for January 26, 2021

For A.D.
Doug Chaffee
#530D

Please add this Supplemental Item to the January 26, 2021 Board of Supervisors meeting agenda:

Covid-19 Vaccine Equity Pilot Program

2021 JUN 22 AM 11:31
CLEAN VACCINE
ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



AGENDA STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item

S30D

ASR

JAN 22 AM 11:31

MEETING DATE: 1/26/2021
LEGAL ENTITY TAKING ACTION: Board of Supervisors
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS DISTRICT(S): All Districts
SUBMITTING AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Chairman Andrew Do, First District
Vice Chairman Doug Chaffee, Fourth District
DEPARTMENT CONTACT PERSON(S): Chris Wangsaporn (714) 834-3110
LaShe Rodriguez (714) 834-3440

Andrew

SUBJECT: COVID-19 VACCINE EQUITY PILOT PROGRAM

CEO CONCUR
N/A

COUNTY COUNSEL REVIEW
N/A

CLERK OF THE BOARD
Discussion
3/5 Vote

Budgeted: N/A

Current Year Cost: N/A

Annual Cost: N/A

Staffing Impact: N/A

of Positions: 0

Sole Source: N/A

Current Fiscal Year Revenue: N/A

Funding Source: N/A

County Audit in last 3 years: No

Prior Board Action: N/A

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

- 1) Direct the Health Care Agency, or designees, to establish the COVID-19 Vaccine Equity Pilot Program to support CalOptima, its health networks and community clinics in serving targeted Medi-Cal beneficiaries with co-morbidities over the age of 65 and in conjunction with the California Department of Public Health's COVID-19 vaccine tiers.
- 2) Direct the Health Care Agency, or designees, to coordinate with CalOptima to facilitate the vaccination of the Phase 1A population, as identified by CalOptima's health network data, and conduct member outreach to those identified members on how to get vaccinated, including using the Pilot Program as an access point, and provide the Board of Supervisors with an update on February 9, 2021, and co-locate additional resources at these sites.
- 3) Direct the Health Care Agency, or designees, to allocate up to 1,000 COVID-19 vaccines per day, as needed, for the COVID-19 Vaccine Equity Pilot Program, to vaccinate the 96,000 Cal-Optima members who meet the State of California's vaccine criteria.
- 4) Direct the Health Care Agency, or designees, to adjust the allocation in Recommended Action 3, as COVID-19 vaccines become available, in order to vaccinate this high-risk population as soon as possible.

SUMMARY: Approval of this item will improve access to vaccinations for the communities that are hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic, disproportionately likely to enter hospital Intensive Care Units (ICUs) due to severe COVID-19 illness, and less able to access vaccinations at sufficient scale through existing programs.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The COVID-19 Vaccine Equity Pilot Program (VEPP) will provide laser-focused attention to vaccinating an identified population that is known based on local data to be at a high risk of infection, hospitalization, and mortality due to COVID-19. The VEPP will not only assist Orange County's health response; but also hasten the lifting of coronavirus-related restrictions on commercial and social activities as it prevents or reduces the severity of infections among high-risk individuals.

Despite a disproportionate harm suffered by these communities, the latest data shows that out of 108,812 vaccine doses reportedly administered thus far, only 12% were given to Hispanic individual, and 30% to Asian and Pacific Islander individuals. Furthermore, less than 20% of doses were given to individuals aged 65 or older.

As the County's public health plan, CalOptima provides health care services to 801,270 low-income children, adults and people with disabilities in Orange County through partnerships with private health networks. The magnitude of COVID-19 is extraordinary and significantly impacting Medi-Cal beneficiaries and providers throughout the region. At least 7,800 COVID-19 cases are known amongst CalOptima members. The approximately 25% of county residents who rely on CalOptima for their health insurance includes:

- 96,511 seniors, age 65 and older;
- 200,978 beneficiaries living with high risk medical conditions;
- 4,148 beneficiaries residing in long-term care facilities; and
- 12,130 beneficiaries experiencing homelessness.

According to CalOptima data, members ages 65+ primarily reside in approximately 15 zip codes across the county (Attachment A) and majority of the identified zip codes are in the cities of Santa Ana, Anaheim, and Garden Grove. These cities are also the communities hardest hit by COVID-19, accounting for over 1,000 COVID-19 deaths and are disproportionately likely to enter hospital Intensive Care Units (ICUs) due to severe COVID-19 illness.

COVID-19 has created unprecedented challenges to CalOptima's highest risk members, the 96,511 seniors (ages 65 and older) and individuals with underlying health conditions. The following data was provided to the Orange County Vaccine Taskforce (Attachment B) and the California Department of Public Health, that further supports the great need for VEPP:

- Older adults have dramatically higher death rates in Orange County.
- Deaths to older adults from COVID-19 have increased dramatically since November, exceeding those in July and August.
- Currently, 54% of persons hospitalized for COVID-19 are over age 60; 72% of patients in the ICU and 72% of patients on ventilators are over age 60.
- Hospital cases are rising most rapidly among 65 to 84-year olds.
- Asian and Latino patients are over-represented in COVID-19 hospital cases at all ages, including older adults.
- People who live in Low Health Equity (HE) census tracts (CT) are 1.4 times more likely to die from covid-19 if they are infected (sig at 95% level).
- Older adults from low Health Equity census tracts are at higher risk (Odds Ratio = 1.7) of dying from COVID. Odds Ratio (OR) for age groups (death in age group vs overall death rate):
 - 65-74 yrs.: OR= 2.2
 - 75-84 yrs.: OR= 1.7
 - 85+ yrs.: OR 1.7

Providing CalOptima's vulnerable senior members, as identified by CalOptima and their health networks through encounter data, direct access to the COVID-19 vaccine is critical. VEPP is specifically designed for members who belong to health networks that do not receive a direct vaccine distribution from the state.

This program will use numerous methods to provide direct access to the vaccine to these hardest hit communities and follow state's tiered vaccine process through community clinics, private health network systems, ambulance providers among others. These providers will utilize the Othena application and website to sign individuals up. These tactics will remove barriers to receiving the vaccine such as lack of transportation and access to internet will be eliminated.

FINANCIAL IMPACT: N/A

STAFFING IMPACT: N/A

ATTACHMENT(S):

- A. CalOptima Data
- B. COVID-19 Vaccine January 10, 2021 Taskforce Presentation