



To: All IEHP Providers & IPAs
From: IEHP – Provider Relations
Date: March 18, 2021
Subject: **COVID-19 Vaccine Administration for Individuals with High-Risk Medical Conditions or Disabilities**

Effective **March 15, 2021**, California Department of Public Health (CDPH) has expanded the COVID-19 vaccine administration to include individuals with high-risk medical condition or disabilities. Individuals ages 16-64 who are deemed to be at the very highest risk for morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 as a direct result of one or more severe health conditions, or if, as a result of a developmental or other severe high-risk disability may now receive the vaccine. Providers and licensed behavioral health clinicians should use their best judgment to identify and prioritize those who meet the eligibility requirements. Members meeting the eligibility requirements as stated below should be asked to sign a self-attestation that they meet the criteria for high-risk medical conditions or disabilities per DHCS APL 20-022.

What high-risk conditions or disabilities make a person between the ages of 16 and 64 eligible for a vaccine after March 15?

- **Cancer**, current with weakened immune system
- **Chronic kidney disease**, stage 4 or above
- **Chronic pulmonary disease**, oxygen dependent
- **Down syndrome**
- **Solid organ transplant**, leading to a weakened immune system
- **Pregnancy**
- **Sickle cell disease**
- **Heart conditions**, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies (but not hypertension)
- **Severe obesity** (Body Mass Index ≥ 40 kg/m²)
- **Type 2 diabetes mellitus** with hemoglobin A1c level greater than 7.5%

OR if, as a result of a developmental or other significant, high-risk disability, one or more of the following criteria applies:

- A COVID-19 infection is likely to result in severe life-threatening illness or death; OR
- Acquiring COVID-19 will limit the individual's ability to receive ongoing care or services vital to their well-being and survival; OR
- Providing adequate and timely COVID care will be particularly challenging as a result of the individual's disability.

For additional information provided by CDPH please visit:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/vaccine-high-risk-factsheet.aspx>

As a reminder, all communications sent by IEHP can also be found on our Provider portal at:

www.iehp.org > For Providers > Plan Updates > Correspondences **or**

www.iehp.org > For Providers > Plan Updates > Coronavirus (COVID-19) Advisory.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the IEHP Provider Relations Team at (909) 890-2054.