

Dear Provider,

March 15, 2021

Since December 15, 2020, Humboldt County's Public Health Branch and Emergency Operations Center have been collaborating with local providers to vaccinate populations eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine. Through these efforts, approximately 30% of Humboldt county residents have received at least one dose of vaccine. Humboldt County is continuing to expand the list of populations eligible to receive vaccine. At the same time, we are preparing for a change in the California State vaccination plan that will shift the responsibility of allocating vaccine away from Public Health. Within the next month, Blue Shield will begin allocating vaccine to California healthcare providers, and Counties will step down from this role. This will inevitably create changes in clinic planning and logistics throughout Humboldt County.

Public Health is committed to keeping mass vaccination clinics operational throughout this process as we strive to end the pandemic. As vaccine supply increases, and providers adapt to the new state allocation process, we will need to increase the number of clinics operated by Public Health. We will be challenged to meet staffing levels for our mass vaccination clinics as many of our vaccinators and intake personnel are volunteer disaster workers. Furthermore, there is a need of Spanish interpreters and other Spanish speaking personnel to safely and equitably deliver vaccine in our community. To staff as many clinics as possible, we are asking that local providers who have available staff for this mass vaccination effort consider donating staff time to support county clinics.

The following is a list of urgently needed resources to continue planning and operating county mass vaccination points of dispense (PODs):

- Vaccinators (bilingual in Spanish preferred, but not required)
- Intake Personnel (bilingual in Spanish preferred, but not required)
- Above staff who can be regularly scheduled in a mass vaccination clinic, even if only once a week

**Please discuss with your facility team any ways in which you may assist and email me and my team with resources you are able to provide for this effort by March 19.** We appreciate and respect the excellent healthcare you bring to our community and believe that with the collaboration of our healthcare partners we will continue to distribute vaccine with equity, transparency and safety.

Kind regards,

Ian Hoffman, MD, MPH

On behalf of Humboldt County Public Health Vaccination Branch