

**From:** [DMHC Licensing eFiling](#)  
**Subject:** Follow-up Email to Plans Regarding APL 21-012  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 24, 2021 3:07 PM

*Sent on behalf of Sarah Ream, Chief Counsel, DMHC.*

This email serves as a reminder to health plans of the guidance provided in the DMHC's [All Plan Letter 21-012](#) (issued on March 12, 2021). Specifically, health plans should be taking all appropriate steps to help ensure enrollees who are at the very highest risk of getting very sick from COVID-19 receive the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible.

Those at very highest risk include people with certain, enumerated health conditions **and individuals with a developmental or other severe high-risk disability** where contracting a COVID-19 infection would:

- likely cause the individual to develop severe life-threatening illness or death; or,
- limit the individual's ability to receive ongoing care or services vital to their well-being and survival; or,
- result in making it particularly challenging to provide adequate and timely COVID care to the individual due to the individual's disability.

These enrollees are further defined by the California Department of Public Health's (CDPH's) March 11, 2021 [Health Care Information Notice](#), which restates the eligibility criteria in the State's vaccination [plan](#) and further clarifies that the following persons are included in those definitions:

"These three criteria include people with a range of significant physical or behavioral disabilities. Examples include: (a) people with serious mental illness (SMI) or serious substance use disorder (SUD), (b) [all] enrolled consumers of Regional Centers, Independent Living Centers, In Home Supportive Services, Community Based Adult Services/Adult Day Health Centers, Medi-Cal HIV/AIDS Waiver, Medi-Cal Home and Community-Based Alternatives Waiver, Medi-Cal Assisted Living Waiver, Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly, California Children's Services Program (if the child is 16-21 years old), and California Genetically Handicapped Persons Program."

These three criteria include also people with a range of physical and behavioral disabilities, whom may or may not be enrolled in the programs listed above.

Please ensure your health plan is complying with APL 21-012 with respect to not only individuals with the enumerated health conditions, *but also with respect to individuals with developmental or other severe high-risk disabilities.*

If you have questions or need further information, please contact your health plan's assigned reviewer in the DMHC's Office of Plan Licensing.

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**From:** [DMHC Licensing eFiling](#)  
**Subject:** APL 21-012 - COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritization  
**Date:** Friday, March 12, 2021 8:30 AM

Dear Health Plan Representative,

Please find attached All Plan Letter (APL) 21-012, regarding vaccine prioritization for individuals deemed to be at the very highest risk to get very sick from COVID-19, either because the individual has one or more enumerated severe health conditions and/or a developmental or other significant, high-risk disability.

Thank you.