



INYO COUNTY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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INYO COUNTY COVID-19 EMERGENCY OPERATIONS UPDATE

March 15, 2021 – 6:00 P.M.

<https://www.inyocounty.us/covid-19>

- **COVID-19 Vaccine Update:** Inyo County, in partnership with Northern Inyo Healthcare District and many volunteers from our local communities and beyond, held a second dose COVID-19 vaccine clinic at the Tri County Fairgrounds March 13th and 14th. Nearly 100% of individuals who received their first dose of vaccine during the February 20/21st clinic returned for their second dose, which means that over a thousand additional individuals in Inyo County have been fully vaccinated!

Starting today, March 15, individuals age 16-64 with certain severe health conditions will be eligible to receive COVID-19 vaccine. Information and updates regarding vaccine roll out continue to be posted to the Inyo County Vaccine Information webpage, <https://www.inyocounty.us/covid-19/vaccine-information>. Inyo County is currently receiving 500 1st dose vaccines per week, which is being divided between the groups of individuals who are currently eligible for the vaccine: Phase 1A medical workers; Phase 1B Tier 1 emergency responders, teachers and childcare workers, food and agriculture workers, people aged 65 and over, and individuals with certain health conditions.

If you believe you are eligible for the vaccine, you may sign up and request notification when appointments are available by going to <https://myturn.ca.gov/>. Additional appointments may open up via different appointment links and be announced when available to people on the Inyo County registration list. You can sign up for the Inyo County registration list here: <https://www.inyocounty.us/covid-19/vaccine-information>.

- **Board Of Supervisors Supports Letter To State Requesting Easing Of Restrictions On Indoor Dining & Theatres:** At its meeting of March 9, 2021, the Inyo County Board of Supervisors received the weekly COVID-19 update from staff. The Board heard reports from Health and Human Services staff and Public Health officials regarding the current status of vaccinations, testing, and the status of the virus. The Board also took comment from members of the public including several business owners.

Considering and weighing all of this information, the Board indicated support for a proposed letter from the Board Chair to the Governor requesting that the state allow for indoor dining and theatre operation in counties currently in the Purple Tier of State's Blueprint for a Safer Economy. The letter also requests changes to the tier system to make it easier for small rural counties to move from the Purple Tier to the Red Tier and to provide early access to indoor dining and theatres for those that can demonstrate that they have been vaccinated.

The Board also provided direction to concentrate the County’s limited staff resources towards vaccinations, contact tracing, and education. Although the most egregious public health violations may still be acted on, staff will prioritize its time pursuant to this Board direction.

CRITICAL REMINDER - Failure to comply with Health Officer Orders places individuals and our community at increased risk of infection. Violation of Health Officer Orders may also result in a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment, fine, or both (Health and Safety Code §120295).

Statewide/ Federal Information, Action, & Recommendations

	Global	U.S.	California
Confirmed Cases	120,180,592	29,492,614	3,624,742
Deaths	2,659,623	535,597	56,656

<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/data> (03/15/21 – 6:00 pm)

- **Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Guidelines:** On March 11th the following updates were made to California’s vaccine eligibility guidelines:
 - Include individuals in specified settings who are eligible to be vaccinated due to increased risk beginning March 15. This includes individuals who reside in a high-risk congregate setting and public transit workers.
 - Provide clarification on individuals eligible for vaccination and include additional FAQs regarding massage therapists, janitors and couriers.
 - Update education and childcare to include examples of eligible informal childcare workers, foster care, and those working in children’s residential community care facilities, and library staff.
 - Update emergency services to include utility workers, disaster service workers, and social workers.
 - Provide clarifications on the implementation of vaccines for people with high-risk medical conditions or disabilities

Beginning March 15, healthcare providers may use their clinical judgement to vaccinate individuals age 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 of the severe health conditions listed at the following vaccine allocation guidelines link. For more information visit:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/VaccineAllocationGuidelines.aspx>