



# Los Angeles County Post Surge Response Plan

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health  
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As we enter this post surge phase with COVID-19, Los Angeles County (LAC) will utilize both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) community monitoring measures and California SMARTER plan to guide the realignment of our local public health response. While we welcome our recovery from the dangerous Omicron variant surge, we recognize that post-surge does not imply that the pandemic is over or that there will not be additional unpredictable waves of surges that will require different monitoring metrics and approaches to meet changing mitigation needs.

The role of LAC Department of Public Health (DPH) post-surge continues to be ensuring an equitable distribution of the resources and opportunities needed to prevent COVID-19 transmission and protect residents and workers from devastating consequences associated with COVID-19 illness. As we have seen over the past two years, the pandemic has illuminated stark inequities in the burden of disease by race/ethnicity and geography, with Black and Brown individuals and those living in under-resourced communities experiencing higher case, hospitalization, and death rates. These disparities did not happen by chance and reflect decades of disinvestment, marginalization, and racism.

The solutions to eliminating the gaps in health outcomes require transforming systems, policies, and practices. Engaging in this work calls for a long-term commitment to centering equity work at all levels, including mitigation efforts post-surge. Calls to ‘returning to normal’ and minimizing public health response activities can have an unintended consequence of exacerbating inequitable outcomes since the existing health care and social services systems are not yet organized to provide those most vulnerable and marginalized with the necessary resources to mitigate the impact of the virus.

To ensure an equity focused response, LAC DPH will organize post-surge actions to:

- Protect the most vulnerable, including those at risk of experiencing elevated rates of illness and death from COVID-19
- Protect hospitals and health system functioning
- Prevent unconstrained spread and significant illness
- Prepare for future potential challenges presented by the evolving conditions of the virus

## Metrics to Assess Risk and Assign Appropriate Prevention Measures

### CDC Community Levels

Los Angeles County (LAC) will use the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) COVID-19 [Community Level Matrix](#) (**Table 1**) to assess the level of risk across the county and adopt corresponding prevention strategies as described in **Table 2**. LA County will move to a lower or higher community level after qualifying for the new level for 7 consecutive days.

**TABLE 1: CDC COVID-19 Community Levels**

| New Cases<br>(per 100,000<br>population in<br>the last 7 days)  | Level of Risk<br>Indicators  | Low    | Medium     | High   | LA County’s<br>Current Values<br><u>New Cases:</u><br>216.5/100,000<br>(as of 2/24/2022) |
|---|--|--------|------------|--------|--|
| <b>Fewer than<br/>200</b>   | New COVID-19<br>admissions per<br>100,000 population<br>(7-day total)                          | <10.0  | 10.0-19.9  | ≥20.0  | NA   |
|   | Proportion of<br>staffed inpatient<br>beds occupied by<br>COVID-19 patients<br>(7-day average) | <10.0% | 10.0-14.9% | ≥15.0% | NA   |
| <b>200 or more</b>  | New COVID-19<br>admissions per<br>100,000 population<br>(7-day total)                          | NA     | <10.0      | ≥10.0  | 10.6   |
|   | Proportion of<br>staffed inpatient<br>beds occupied by<br>COVID-19 patients<br>(7-day average) | NA     | <10.0%     | ≥10.0% | 7.7%   |
| <p>The COVID-19 community level is determined by the higher of the inpatient beds and new admissions indicators, based on the current level of new cases per 100,000 population in the past 7 days.</p> |  |        |            |        |  |

## Community Prevention Strategies (Aligned with Community Levels)

The community prevention strategies below reflect CDC, state, and county mitigation efforts in four areas: masking, testing, vaccination verification, and ventilation. Federal and state requirements are embedded in **Table 2** below and will be changed if and when these requirements change.

**TABLE 2: Community Prevention Strategies**

| Strategies             | Low  | Medium  | High  |
|------------------------|--|---|---|
| <b>Masking Indoors</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required in all indoor spaces at K-12 schools until 3/12/22</li> <li>• Required at all healthcare settings, correctional and detention facilities, public transit, transportation hubs, congregate care facilities, and homeless and emergency shelters</li> <li>• Required for those that exit isolation or quarantine early by testing through day 10 of isolation or quarantine period</li> <li>• Required for employers to offer well-fitting medical masks or respirators to employees working indoors in close contact with other workers and/or customers</li> <li>• Strongly recommended for all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, in indoor spaces</li> <li>• Recommended for those at elevated risk of severe illness</li> <li>• Recommended for those gathering with</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required in all indoor spaces at K-12 schools until 3/12/22</li> <li>• Required at all healthcare settings, correctional and detention facilities, public transit, transportation hubs, congregate care facilities, and homeless and emergency shelters</li> <li>• Required for those that exit isolation or quarantine early by testing through day 10 of isolation or quarantine period</li> <li>• Required for employers to offer well-fitting medical masks or respirators to employees working indoors in close contact with other workers and/or customers</li> <li>• Strongly recommended for all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, in indoor spaces</li> <li>• Recommended for those at elevated risk of severe illness</li> <li>• Recommended for those gathering with individuals at elevated risk</li> <li>• Employers required to offer medical grade masks and respirators to</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Required in all indoor spaces at schools, public, and business settings</li> <li>• Required at all healthcare settings, correctional and detention facilities, public transit, transportation hubs, congregate care facilities, and homeless and emergency shelters</li> <li>• Required for those that exit isolation or quarantine early by testing through day 10 of isolation or quarantine period</li> <li>• Required for employers required to offer well-fitting medical masks or respirators to employees working indoors in close contact with other workers and/or customers</li> </ul> |

| Strategies  | Low   | Medium  | High  |
|---|---|---|---|
|   | individuals at elevated risk  | employees working indoors in close contact with other workers and/or customers  |   |
| <b>Testing</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Required to exit isolation or quarantine between days 6-10</li> <li>Recommended for those exposed or symptomatic</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Required to exit isolation or quarantine between days 6-10</li> <li>Testing for those exposed or symptomatic or before gathering with those at elevated risk</li> <li>Implement screening testing, as appropriate, in workplaces, schools and high-risk congregate settings</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Required to exit isolation or quarantine between days 6-10</li> <li>Testing for those exposed or symptomatic or before gathering with those at elevated risk</li> <li>Implement screening testing, as appropriate, in workplaces, schools and high-risk congregate settings</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Vaccination Verification in Higher Risk Settings</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Required for indoor mega events</li> <li>Required for healthcare workers, employees at healthcare facilities, and employees at high-risk congregate care settings</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Required for indoor mega events</li> <li>Required for healthcare workers, employees at healthcare facilities, and employees at high-risk congregate care settings</li> <li>Required for visitors at healthcare facilities, including congregate care sites; a negative test result may be substituted for those not fully vaccinated</li> <li>Recommended at outdoor mega events, and indoor portions of bars, lounges, nightclubs, distilleries, wineries, and breweries; a negative test result may be substituted for those not fully vaccinated</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Required for indoor mega events</li> <li>Required for healthcare workers, employees at healthcare facilities, and employees at high-risk congregate care settings</li> <li>Required for visitors at healthcare facilities, including congregate care sites; a negative test result may be substituted for those not fully vaccinated</li> <li>Recommended at outdoor mega events, and indoor portions of bars, lounges, nightclubs, distilleries, wineries, and breweries; a negative test result may be substituted for those not fully vaccinated</li> </ul> |
| <b>Ventilation</b>                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure and maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure and maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure and maintain improved ventilation throughout indoor spaces</li> </ul>   |

### **LAC Early Alert Signals and Levels of Concern**

Public Health will monitor the following signals to provide early indication of concerning trends that can result in future high rates of transmission and/or increased illness severity. The signals below include three community-wide measures (variants of concern, Emergency Department COVID-19 visits, cumulative case rate in high poverty communities) and four (4) sector specific measures (outbreaks at Skilled Nursing Facilities [SNFs], outbreaks at Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade schools, outbreaks at settings assisting persons experiencing homelessness [PEH], clusters at worksites). Alerts in two (2) or more sectors that reach the threshold for moderate or high concern will trigger an in-depth review of contributing factors and the possibility of modifications to community prevention strategies. Sector specific alerts that reach the threshold for moderate or high concern will result in action steps outlined in **Table 4: Mitigation Measures for Priority Sectors**.

**TABLE 3: LAC Early Alert Signals**

| <b>Indicator Thresholds</b>  | <b>Low</b>                                    | <b>Medium</b>                                   | <b>High</b>                                   | <b>LA County Current Values</b>                   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| Percent of specimens sequenced that are identified as a new variant of concern <i>(based on the World Health Organization’s designation)</i> | Less than 5% of sequenced specimens           | 5%-10% of sequenced specimens                   | More than 10% of sequenced specimens          | <b>N/A</b>  |
| 7-day average of the percent of Emergency Department (ED) encounters classified as coronavirus-related                                       | Less than 5% of ED encounters                 | Between 5% and 10% of ED encounters             | More than 10% of ED encounters                | <b>4.9%</b><br><b>(2/21/22-2/27/22)</b>           |
| 7-day cumulative crude case rate for the lowest income areas (30-100% area poverty)  | Case rate is <100 per 100,000                 | Case rate is 100-200 per 100,000                | Case rate is >200 per 100,000                 | <b>82 per 100,000</b><br><b>(2/21/22-2/27/22)</b> |
| Number of new outbreaks in skilled nursing facilities over the past 7 days   | ≤10 new outbreaks in past 7 days              | 11-20 new outbreaks in past 7 days              | >20 new outbreaks in past 7 days              | <b>3</b><br><b>(2/23/22-3/1/22)</b>               |
| Number of new outbreaks in TK-12 schools over the past 7 days  | ≤3 new outbreaks in past 7 days               | 4-9 new outbreaks in past 7 days                | ≥10 new outbreaks in past 7 days              | <b>7</b><br><b>(2/23/22-3/1/22)</b>               |
| Number of new outbreaks in PEH settings over the past 7 days   | ≤10 new outbreaks in past 7 days              | 11-20 new outbreaks in past 7 days              | >20 new outbreaks in past 7 days              | <b>6</b><br><b>(2/23/22-3/1/22)</b>               |
| Number of worksite cluster reports in the past 7 days  | < 100 worksite cluster reports in past 7 days | 100-300 worksite cluster reports in past 7 days | > 300 worksite cluster reports in past 7 days | <b>64</b><br><b>(2/21/22-2/27/22)</b>             |

## **Priority Sector Mitigation Measures**

During post-surge, detailed below are both general mitigation measures and additional measures that vary depending on the threshold for concern for each priority sector.

**TABLE 4: Priority Sector Response**

| Sector      | General Mitigation Measures   | Low Concern   | Moderate Concern  | High Concern   |
|-------------|---|---|---|--|
| <b>SNFs</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase vaccination and booster coverage for those eligible (required for SNF employees).</li> <li>• Require masking at all healthcare settings. Require respirators for all staff when in direct contact with residents/patients.</li> <li>• Ensure adequate testing capacity to meet routine and response testing requirements as defined by the state’s All Facility Letters (AFLs) and county HOOs.</li> <li>• Ensure access to therapeutics.</li> <li>• Optimize indoor ventilation where possible.</li> <li>• Continue aggressive management of outbreaks and expanded infection control measures.</li> <li>• Continue to provide consultation, education and information on optimal infection control practices.</li> <li>• Prioritize DPH assistance with outbreaks.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test all symptomatic staff and residents.</li> <li>• Conduct contact tracing and assure proper isolation of cases and quarantining of close contacts based on the county HOO.</li> <li>• Test contacts within facility required at day 2 and 7 after exposure.</li> <li>• Require masking at all healthcare settings.</li> <li>• Conduct weekly screening testing of unvaccinated staff and residents required.</li> </ul> <p>Report all cases among staff and residents to DPH.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test all symptomatic staff and residents.</li> <li>• Conduct contact tracing and assure proper isolation of cases and quarantining of close contacts based on the county HOO.</li> <li>• Test contacts within facility required at day 2 and 7 after exposure.</li> <li>• Require masking at all healthcare settings.</li> <li>• Conduct weekly screening testing of unvaccinated staff and residents required.</li> <li>• Require unvaccinated visitors be tested (PCR or Antigen) within 48 hours prior to indoor visitation.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Test all symptomatic staff and residents.</li> <li>• Conduct contact tracing and assure proper isolation of cases and quarantining of close contacts based on the county HOO.</li> <li>• Test contacts within facility required at day 2 and 7 after exposure.</li> <li>• Implement universal masking of all staff and residents. Require N95 respirators for all staff during the entire time while in the facility.</li> <li>• Conduct twice weekly screening testing of all staff and weekly testing of residents required, regardless of vaccination status.</li> </ul> |

| Sector  | General Mitigation Measures   | Low Concern   | Moderate Concern  | High Concern   |
|---|---|---|---|--|
|   |   |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limit communal dining and activities to fixed cohorts.</li> <li>• Report all cases among staff and residents to DPH.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require all visitors be tested (PCR or Antigen) within 48 hours prior to indoor visitation.</li> <li>• Pause communal dining and group activities.</li> <li>• Report all cases among staff and residents to DPH.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>K-12 and Early Childhood Education (ECE)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masking required in all indoor spaces at ECE and TK-12 schools until 3/12/22.</li> <li>• Ensure adequate testing capacity at K-12 schools and ECE settings.</li> <li>• Continue offering group contact tracing option to schools as an alternative to individual contact tracing in TK-12 schools.</li> <li>• Recommend that all eligible staff and students receive their vaccines/booster dose; vaccination requirements are determined by the state or school districts.</li> <li>• Prioritize DPH assistance with outbreaks. During an outbreak: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Require weekly testing of all students and staff at any school site that experiences an outbreak(s) involving 15% of students and staff</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strongly recommend masking indoors for staff and students.</li> <li>• Improve ventilation.</li> <li>• Monitor for symptoms.</li> <li>• Conduct response testing (symptoms and/or exposure).</li> <li>• Promote proper isolation of cases.</li> <li>• Consider surveillance testing in a TK-12 school/district sample to monitor for trends, only if staffing and test capacity allows (e.g., 10%+ of school population with cadences of weekly, biweekly, monthly</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strongly recommend masking indoors for staff and students.</li> <li>• Improve ventilation.</li> <li>• Monitor for symptoms.</li> <li>• Recommend weekly testing of unvaccinated.</li> <li>• Conduct response testing (symptoms and/or exposure).</li> <li>• Promote proper isolation of cases. Recommend test to return for shortened isolation period.</li> <li>• Implement group tracing + once weekly testing of unvaccinated in the</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement universal masking indoors for staff and students with medical grade masks for staff.</li> <li>• Improve ventilation.</li> <li>• Monitor for symptoms.</li> <li>• Require weekly testing of unvaccinated in TK -12 schools</li> <li>• Strongly recommend weekly testing for unvaccinated in ECE settings</li> <li>• Conduct response testing (symptoms and/or exposure).</li> <li>• Promote proper isolation of cases. Require test to return for shortened isolation period.</li> </ul> |

| Sector     | General Mitigation Measures  | Low Concern  | Moderate Concern   | High Concern   |
|------------|--|--|--|--|
|            | <p>over a 14-day period on campus, provided that adequate testing resources are available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Strongly recommend weekly testing of all students and staff at any ECE site that experiences an outbreak(s) involving 15% of students and staff over a 14-day period on campus, provided that adequate testing resources are available.</li> <li>○ Quarantine and isolation periods may be extended for additional days to help control transmission risk. This could include eliminating any modified quarantine option.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Prioritize DPH assistance with outbreak management.</li> <li>● Strongly encourage school-based vaccine clinics to enroll as COVID-19 providers.</li> </ul> | <p>based on school need/capacity).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Report all outbreaks among staff and students to DPH.</li> </ul> | <p>group in TK -12 schools</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Report all outbreaks among staff and students to DPH.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Implement group tracing + once weekly testing of all in the group regardless of vaccination status in TK -12 schools</li> <li>● Report all outbreaks among staff and students to DPH.</li> <li>● Require weekly testing for asymptomatic unvaccinated/not fully vaccinated close contacts of infected individuals remaining in school.</li> </ul> |
| <b>PEH</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Recommend that all eligible staff and PEH receive their vaccine and booster dose.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Require staff at shelters/interim housing to wear</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Require staff at shelters/interim housing to wear</li> </ul>                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Require staff at shelters/interim housing to wear surgical masks or respirators.</li> </ul>   |

| Sector | General Mitigation Measures  | Low Concern  | Moderate Concern   | High Concern  |
|--------|--|--|--|---|
|        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure capacity for routine screening testing of PEH at shelters.</li> <li>• Ensure access to therapeutics.</li> <li>• Improve indoor ventilation where possible.</li> <li>• Continue aggressive management of outbreaks and expanded infection control measures.</li> <li>• Continue to provide consultation, education, and information on optimal infection control practices.</li> <li>• Prioritize DPH assistance with outbreak management.</li> </ul> | <p>surgical masks or respirators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require all guests at shelters/interim housing to wear masks and offer high quality masks to all guests.</li> <li>• Offer point of care or other screening testing to PEH clients and staff at shelters. Test all symptomatic persons for COVID-19 regardless of vaccination status.</li> <li>• Conduct weekly testing of all shelter staff and residents who are not vaccinated required (per county HOO).</li> <li>• Conduct weekly screening testing 10% unvaccinated PEH, as capacity allows.</li> <li>• Conduct contact tracing and assure proper isolation of cases and quarantining of close contacts</li> </ul> | <p>surgical masks or respirators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require all guests at shelters/interim housing to wear masks and offer high quality masks to all guests.</li> <li>• Offer point of care or other screening testing to PEH clients and staff at shelters.</li> <li>• Test all symptomatic persons for COVID-19 regardless of vaccination status.</li> <li>• Conduct weekly screening testing of all shelter staff and residents who are not up to date with vaccinations.</li> <li>• Conduct contact tracing and assure proper isolation of cases and quarantining of close contacts based on the county HOO.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require all guests at shelters/interim housing to wear masks and offer high quality masks to all guests.</li> <li>• Test all symptomatic persons for COVID-19 regardless of vaccination status.</li> <li>• Conduct weekly screening testing of all shelter staff and residents, regardless of vaccination status.</li> <li>• Conduct contact tracing and assure proper isolation of cases and quarantining of close contacts based on the county HOO.</li> <li>• Report all cases among staff and residents to DPH.</li> </ul> |

| Sector           | General Mitigation Measures  | Low Concern   | Moderate Concern   | High Concern   |
|------------------|--|---|--|--|
|                  |  | based on the county HOO. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report all cases among staff and residents to DPH.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report all cases among staff and residents to DPH.</li> </ul>   |  |
| <b>Worksites</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure information regarding vaccinations, testing and therapeutics to employees</li> <li>Encourage worker vaccination.</li> <li>Investigate workplace outbreaks; require employers to implement safety measures that limit transmission.</li> <li>Continue to provide consultation, education and information on optimal infection control practices.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employers required to offer well-fitting medical masks and respirators to employees working indoors in close contact with other workers and/or customers</li> <li>Require symptomatic workers to isolate and test.</li> <li>Encourage contacts to test and quarantine as needed.</li> <li>Optimize ventilation at worksites.</li> <li>Require employers to report if 3 or more COVID-19 cases are known or reported at a worksite within a 14-day period.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage masking for workers with elevated risk.</li> <li>Employers required to offer well-fitting medical masks and respirators to employees working indoors in close contact with other workers and/or customers</li> <li>Require symptomatic workers to isolate and test.</li> <li>Encourage contacts to test and quarantine as needed.</li> <li>Optimize ventilation at worksites.</li> <li>Increase risk messaging to high-risk worksites such as manufacturing and warehousing.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement universal indoor masking at worksites.</li> <li>Employers required to offer well-fitting medical masks and respirators to employees working indoors in close contact with other workers and/or customers</li> <li>Require symptomatic workers to isolate and test.</li> <li>Encourage contacts to test and quarantine as needed.</li> <li>Optimize ventilation at worksites.</li> <li>Increase risk messaging to high-risk worksites such as manufacturing and warehousing.</li> <li>Encourage remote work where possible.</li> </ul> |

| Sector                             | General Mitigation Measures   | Low Concern  | Moderate Concern  | High Concern   |
|------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|
|                                    |   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage remote work where possible.</li> <li>• Encourage physical distancing in communal areas.</li> <li>• Require employers to report if 3 or more COVID-19 cases are known or reported at a worksite within a 14-day period.</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement physical distancing in communal areas such as breakrooms, cafeterias.</li> <li>• Require employers to report if 3 or more COVID-19 cases are known or reported at a worksite within a 14-day period.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Highly-Impacted Communities</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase vaccination and booster coverage.</li> <li>• Ensure access to vaccinations, testing and therapeutics in communities hardest-hit by COVID-19.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue investment in community-based organizations (CBOs) and faith-based organizations (FBOs) working in communities hardest hit to provide resource linkages, conduct COVID-19 outreach and education, and facilitate access to vaccination opportunities.</li> <li>• Continue Public Health Councils program to provide critical support to low-wage essential works;</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritize community and workplace outreach and vaccination efforts in communities showing increased rates of transmission.</li> <li>• Begin to assess quarantine and isolation (QI) housing capacity if rates of transmission and/or illness severity continue to increase.</li> <li>• Expand PH Council outreach in essential low-wage worker industries disproportionately</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to prioritize community and workplace outreach and vaccination efforts in communities showing increased rates of transmission and/or illness severity.</li> <li>• Promote enhanced and targeted outreach by CBOs and other partners to support growing demand for education resources.</li> <li>• Explore increased QI housing capacity, if necessary.</li> <li>• Support targeted PPE and screening testing access</li> </ul> |

| Sector                                     | General Mitigation Measures  | Low Concern   | Moderate Concern  | High Concern  |
|--|--|---|---|---|
|  |  | <p>consider broader efforts to support other essential, low-wage worker industries not previously included in the pilot program.</p>  | <p>impacted by outbreaks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support access to PPE and screening testing in priority sectors and communities.</li> <li>• Tailor CBO/FBO messaging for communities of concerns.</li> </ul>   | <p>in priority sectors and communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amplify CBO/FBO messaging for communities of concern; convene CBO/FBO partners to discuss strategies and resources to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Hospitals and Health Systems</b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Masking is required for everyone in a healthcare facility regardless of vaccination status.</li> <li>• Increase booster coverage for those eligible (required for all health care personnel).</li> <li>• Continue option for modified isolation and quarantine requirements only where needed to accommodate severe staffing shortages.</li> <li>• Coordinate with MHOAC to safeguard regional capacity for essential pre-hospital (EMS) and hospital services and ensure surge capacity.</li> <li>• Continue to provide consultation, education and information on optimal infection control practices.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require respirators for all staff when in direct contact with residents/patients.</li> <li>• Test all symptomatic staff and patients.</li> <li>• Conduct contact tracing and assure proper isolation of cases.</li> <li>• Assure vaccination requirements for all applicable staff are adhered to.</li> <li>• Report all cases among staff and patients to DPH.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require respirators for all staff when in direct contact with residents/patients.</li> <li>• Test all symptomatic staff and patients.</li> <li>• Conduct contact tracing and assure proper isolation of cases.</li> <li>• Assure vaccination requirements for all applicable staff are adhered to.</li> <li>• Report all cases among staff and patients to DPH.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require respirators for all staff when in direct contact with residents/patients.</li> <li>• Test all symptomatic staff and patients.</li> <li>• Conduct contact tracing and assure proper isolation of cases.</li> <li>• Assure vaccination requirements for all applicable staff are adhered to.</li> <li>• Report all cases among staff and patients to DPH.</li> </ul> |

## **LAC Post Surge Preparedness Plan**

The lessons we have learned from navigating more than 2 years of the pandemic will inform preparedness activities for LA County. The five focus areas identified below include: preparedness for outbreak management, vaccine distribution/information dissemination, testing, therapeutic distribution, and surveillance.

### **Outbreak Management Preparedness Post-Surge**

Worksites are required to report clusters of three (3) or more cases within 14 days to DPH as part of a broader strategy to ensure workplace safety and protect employees when there is spread of an infectious agent. Post-surge worksite outbreak management strategies will include the following:

- Contact will be made with all worksites reporting an outbreak to provide information about employer responsibilities and recommendations/requirements for mitigation of additional spread.
- Sites experiencing outbreaks may be required by DPH to implement mitigation measures, such as indoor masking, routine testing, distancing, and other infection control measures, to limit the spread of COVID-19 among workers at a worksite.

### **Vaccination Preparedness Post-Surge**

Vaccinations provide the most powerful personal and community protection from COVID-19. Increasing coverage by ensuring access and addressing concerns regarding vaccine efficacy and safety remain priority activities. The following actions are essential components of the preparedness plan:

- Increase vaccination and booster coverage among those at elevated risk for severe illness and those working/living with those at elevated risk.
- Maintain a network of at least 300 mobile teams per week that can provide access to vaccines in low-coverage communities and at schools.
- Maintain an extensive fixed vaccination clinic network to provide access across the entire county.
- Increase numbers of medical providers offering vaccines to their patients through their routine services. Emphasize pediatricians incorporating COVID-19 vaccination into routine vaccination practice.
- Increase participation of health plans in ensuring homebound residents have access to vaccinations and boosters.
- Maintain homebound services to provide vaccinations and booster to those at elevated risk for severe illness.
- Increase the number of residents trained as community ambassadors, parent ambassadors, and student ambassadors.
- Increase funding for CBOs and FBOs to support dissemination of vaccination information and promote access to vaccine clinics.
- Transition at least 3 Public Health vaccination sites to provide multiple COVID-19 services including vaccination, testing, resources and mental health services.

## **Testing Preparedness Post-Surge**

- Testing may continue to be required by businesses, local or state HOOs, Cal/OSHA or state AFLs in high-risk settings (e.g., SNFs, shelters, correctional facilities, health care facilities, schools), for entry into Mega Events for those not fully vaccinated, and for outbreak management.
- Access to free and accessible testing for those with symptoms, exposures, exiting isolation or quarantine, or complying with travel and return to work/school requirements, is important. While there are requirements that health plans provide reimbursement to their members for testing, not everyone is insured and there is neither sufficient supply of tests nor ability for all members to purchase tests. Community testing sites that provide free and accessible testing to residents will remain essential over the upcoming months.
- Distribution of antigen test kits continues to be needed in high-risk settings and communities with high case rates, where testing remains an essential strategy for protecting workers and community members/residents.

## **Therapeutic Distribution Preparedness**

Although currently there is extraordinary scarcity in the supply of effective therapeutics, there is a need to ensure that those with less access to health care can receive appropriate therapeutics. This includes the following:

- Ensure a vast network of providers with information, supply of therapeutics, and prescribing ability across the county, with emphasis on deep penetration in hard hit and low-resourced communities.
- Ensure a vast network of distribution sites (including pharmacies and community clinics) that can distribute oral medications with no barriers with deep penetration in hard hit and low-resourced communities.
- Provide a call center where residents can get more information about therapeutics and how to access therapeutics; provide culturally and linguistically appropriate information and information on accessing free medications.
- Consider using telehealth platforms at public health clinics or other community clinics to augment sites that can prescribe and distribute oral therapeutics in low-resourced communities.

## **Surveillance Preparedness**

To maintain an early alert system that can track the presence of emerging variants of concern, the following is required:

- Capacity to sequence 15% -25% of positive specimens.
- Ability to expand wastewater surveillance to all areas of the county.
- Expanded capacity to use sentinel sites to provide data on illness patterns.