



**COUNTY OF DEL NORTE**  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**SUBJECT:** To Del Norte County Residents

Time for another COVID update, sorry, but there is a lot of news again.

First, we did NOT drop to Purple tier. We would have, had the state health department not changed the parameters for dropping to a lower tier. They did this literally as I was announcing on the radio last Thursday that we were headed there. That was the best news last week! From now on, there will be additional requirements to move to the lowest tier, beyond just the number of cases and we think there will be some additional changes for small counties in the near future that may make it easier to move up the tiers. Regardless, we think that this means that we are not likely to drop to purple anytime in the near future.

Second, we had some sad news that we mentioned in the Board of Supervisors meeting Tuesday and was posted this week; we lost two Del Norte residents last weekend. That was the first time that we have lost two persons over such a short time frame. Both persons were elderly and had underlying health conditions, but it shows that it can still happen. All the more reason for getting vaccinated for this virus, it can and will still be deadly for some people.

And about vaccinations, as of Tuesday we have had more than 12,000 doses administered in Del Norte, and about 43% of our seniors had completed vaccination, with a lot more on record waiting for their second dose. We are still holding vaccine clinics through public health at the fairgrounds on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and we are open to everyone over 18, including walk-ins. We are using the Moderna vaccine mostly, and until Tuesday morning, some Janssen vaccine as well. We have three pharmacies involved in vaccination currently, and we think that all our pharmacies will be offering vaccine at some point in the not too distant future.

A word about Janssen, the CDC and FDA "paused" use of this vaccine because of some cases (6 total) in relatively young women coming down with an unusual and severe clotting disorder. The numbers are very small relative to the number of persons vaccinated (about 7 million doses of Janssen have been given already). The Federal experts will be meeting to discuss what, if anything, should be done differently about the vaccine use but we expect that they will authorize it again, perhaps with an

additional precaution about this rare potential problem. For anyone who has had this vaccine, the symptoms to watch for are severe headache, trouble breathing with or without chest pain, abdominal pain, especially sudden and severe pain, and finally, leg pain, redness or swelling. But having said that, everyone who has received Janssen vaccine in our county should still recognize that this problem is extremely unlikely to occur.

At public health, we will be moving to using the new state system for online registration (called My Turn) starting next week, in a limited way. We think it is similar to our own registration system, but has more questions and is available in more languages. It is being widely used in California now (we are among the very last counties to enroll) and there are some strong incentives for us to use this system. It will make it much easier in the long run for our vaccination teams. We are committed to transitioning to the new system, and we will post new information to everyone as it becomes available.

And lastly, there are a whole new batch of guidance documents from the state health department, in the last few weeks and coming out this next week. There is way too much to cover in this bulletin, but we are asking people to check the state websites for information about changes to what can happen going forward. There is guidance ready or almost ready for gatherings, weddings, graduations and other events of all kinds. We expect that a lot will be changing over the next few months, so plan on checking the state health department websites to get the latest updates.

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