

## COVID-19 2021 Timeline

COVID-19 is a disease caused by a new strain of coronavirus first identified in 2019. COVID-19 is mainly transmitted through close proximity to an infected individual, and it is occasionally transmitted through contact with an infected surface. Symptoms typically appear 2-14 days after infection and include fever, chills, coughing, shortness of breath, headache, muscle aches, vomiting or diarrhea, and loss of taste or smell. While some infected individuals experience no symptoms, cases can range from mild incidents to severe illness requiring hospitalization or even death. Sacramento County Public Health (SCPH) activated the Department Operations Center (DOC) on January 15, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 threat. This timeline presents major events related to COVID-19, as well as important actions SCPH DOC took to identify and prevent COVID-19 cases throughout 2021. Major events and actions in 20202 are documented in the COVID-19 2020 Timeline.

Jan. 1 – Sacramento County begins 2021 in the midst of a surge in COVID-19 cases and deaths. SCPH administers COVID-19 vaccinations to health care workers and long-term care facility residents. March 16 – County moves to Red Tier of California's (CA) Blueprint for Recovery.

April 1 – CA expands eligibility for the COVID-19 vaccine to all residents ages 50 and older.

April 5 – County surpasses 100,000 confirmed COVID-19 cases.

April 6 – CA Governor Gavin Newsom outlines Moving Beyond the Blueprint plan. May 20 – SCPH launches mobile vaccination trailers to bring pop-up clinics directly to historically underserved communities. July 15 – Health Officer (HO) Dr. Olivia Kasirye strongly recommends masking indoors in response to rapidly rising case rates caused by the Delta variant.

July 29 – Dr. Kasirye issues HO Order mandating masking indoors regardless of vaccination status.

Sept. 22 – FDA authorizes booster doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for individuals ages 65 and older and for individuals between the ages of 18 to 64 who are either at high risk for severe COVID-19 or have institutional/occupational exposure to COVID-19.

Nov. 19 – FDA authorizes booster doses for the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for all individuals ages 18 and older.

Nov. 29 – CDC recommends booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccine for all individuals ages 18 and older.

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Feb. 2 – SCPH begins vaccinating first responders and residents ages 65 and older.

Feb. 8 – County surpasses 1,500 COVID-19 deaths.

Feb. 27 – U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorizes Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine for COVID-19 in individuals ages 18 and older. April 13 – U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and FDA recommend pause in administering J&J vaccine out of an abundance of caution after six reports of a rare but severe form of blood clot.

April 15 – CA expands eligibility for the COVID-19 vaccine to all residents ages 16 and older. SCPH begins sending automated referrals for wrap-around services for residents in isolation or quarantine.

April 18 - SCPH launches online outbreak reporting portal to help schools and businesses comply with CA Assembly Bills 86 and 865, respectively.

April 20 – County administers over 1 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine.

April 23 – Pause on administering J&J vaccine is lifted following thorough safety review.

June 2 – County moves to Orange Tier of CA's Blueprint for Reopening.

June 10 – SCPH launches the Vaccine Ambassador Training program to empower residents to become vaccine influencers in their communities.

June 15 – Governor Newsom announces CA reopening by easing restrictions such as physical distancing and retiring the Blueprint for a Safer Economy plan. Aug. 6 – Half of County residents becomes fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Aug. 12 – FDA authorizes additional doses of the Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for certain immunocompromised individuals.

Aug. 23 – FDA authorizes the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for individuals ages 12 and older. Oct. 20 – FDA authorizes booster doses for Pfizer, Moderna, and J&J COVID-19 vaccines, as well as mixing and matching vaccine types. Dec. 9 – FDA and CDC expand Pfizer booster recommendation to include individuals ages 16 and 17.

Dec. 21 – The first case of the Omicron variant in County is reported.

Dec. 31 – County ends 2021 with over 60% of County residents fully vaccinated against COVID-19.