

# Ethics in a Pandemic and the State of COVID-19 in California

## COVID-19 Virtual Grand Rounds

June 8, 2021



IN  
PARTNERSHIP  
WITH



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# Disclosure



Electronic Long Form (ELF) Disclosure of **Arthur Caplan, PhD**

April 14, 2021

I serve as the unpaid chair of the Compassionate Use Advisory Committees (CompAC), independent panels of internationally recognized medical experts, bioethicists, and patient representatives formed by NYU School of Medicine in collaboration with Janssen. CompAC advises Janssen about requests for compassionate use of its investigational medicines. NYU receives administrative funding from Janssen to facilitate the CompAC committees.

I discuss emerging issues in research ethics with WIRB/WCG leadership. I also give lectures on research ethics topics to WIRB/WCG staff and fellows. The Division of Medical Ethics also has a grant from WIRB/WCG to provide education as part of an annual international research ethics fellows educational program held at NYU.

I consulted in 2019-2020 for Sangamo, Novartis (all compassionate use, unpaid), Glaxo, Abeona, Genae/Cardialen-DSMB, Biomarin, Cabaletta Bio, Accenture, Moderna (unpaid), Hevolution foundation and Expert Witness Services for the Vermont Board of Medical Practice.



# Disclosure

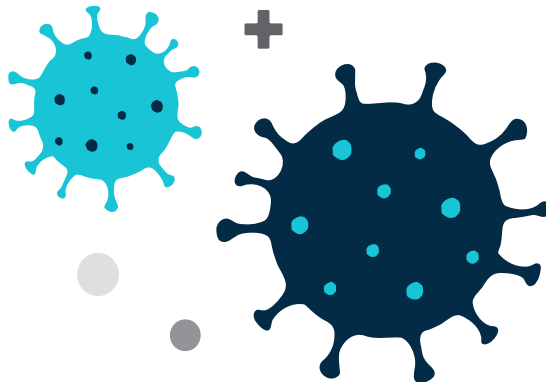
The following speakers disclose no relevant financial relationships with commercial interests.

Kimberly Newell Green, M.D. and Erica Pan, M.D., MPH

All other planners, staff and others involved with this activity have reported no relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies whose primary business is producing, marketing, selling, re-selling, or distributing healthcare products used by or on patients

This activity has not received commercial support.

# Agenda



- Update on COVID-19 in California: Variants and Vaccines
  - Erica Pan, M.D., MPH
- Ethics in a Pandemic
  - Arthur L. Caplan, PhD
- Q&A

# Continuing Medical Education (CME) Offered

## Learning Objectives:

- Develop a framework for decision-making around complex questions of ethics during a pandemic.
- Apply standards of care during emergencies.
- Make decisions about settings in which vaccination should be mandatory during a pandemic.
- Summarize issues of vaccine trials and healthy volunteers.
- Discuss issues of access and health equity, including to experimental treatments, from an ethical point of view.
- Consider how to use scarce resources during a public health crisis.
- Review obligations to protect health care workers during a health emergency, including trainees.
- Describe the current epidemiology of COVID-19 in California, as well as the vaccination rates including rates in vulnerable populations.
- Describe the evolution of COVID-19 variants in the US and in California.

# Kimberly Newell Green M.D. – Moderator

**Immediate Past President,  
San Francisco Marin Medical  
Society**

**Associate Clinical Professor,  
University of California, San  
Francisco**



# Erica Pan, M.D., MPH

**California State  
Epidemiologist and Deputy  
Director**

**California Department of  
Public Health (CDPH) Center  
of Infectious Diseases**





## Vaccinate **ALL 58**

Together we can end the pandemic.  
Juntos podemos acabar con la pandemia.  
我們可以一起終止疫情。

# COVID-19 Epidemiology, Vaccination Progress, and Other Updates

**Dr. Erica Pan, MD, MPH,  
FAAP**

California State Epidemiologist  
Deputy Director, Center for Infectious Diseases  
California Department of Public Health

UCSF Clinical Professor  
Pediatric Infectious Diseases

June 8, 2021



# Agenda

- Epidemiology
- Vaccination Progress
- Beyond the Blueprint
- Ethics and COVID-19



# COVID-19 Overview

## Tracking COVID-19

As of June 7, California has 3,690,868 confirmed cases of COVID-19, resulting in 62,473 deaths.

Cases	Deaths	Tests	Vaccines Administered
<b>3,690,868</b> Total	<b>62,473</b> Total	<b>66,762,795</b> Total	<b>38,523,717</b> Total
874 Today	3 Today	180,142 Today	
↘ 1.9 New cases per 100K	↘ 0.05 New deaths per 100K	↘ 0.7% Test positivity	

*Updated June 7, 2021 at 10:00 AM with data from June 6, 2021*

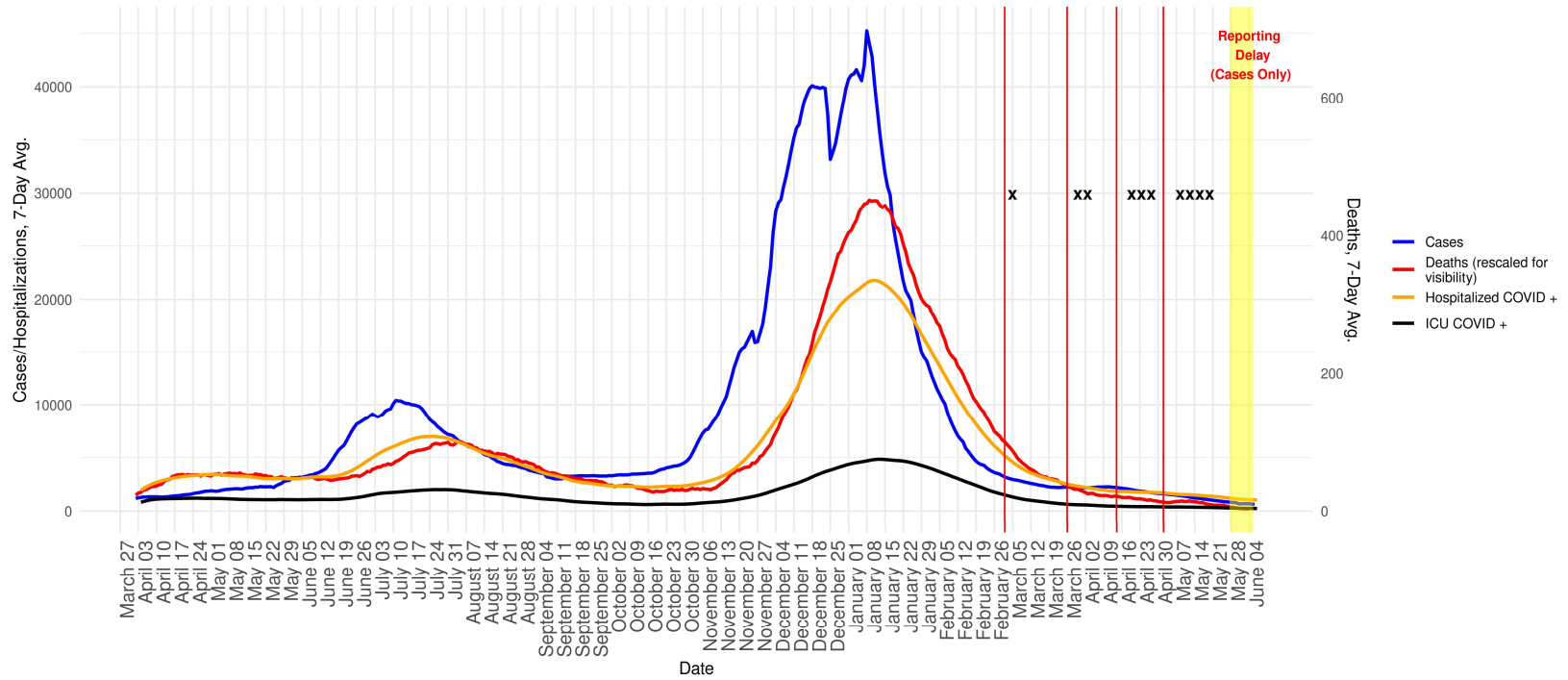
7-Day Average of Cases

Total Hospitalizations,

Total ICU Admissions,

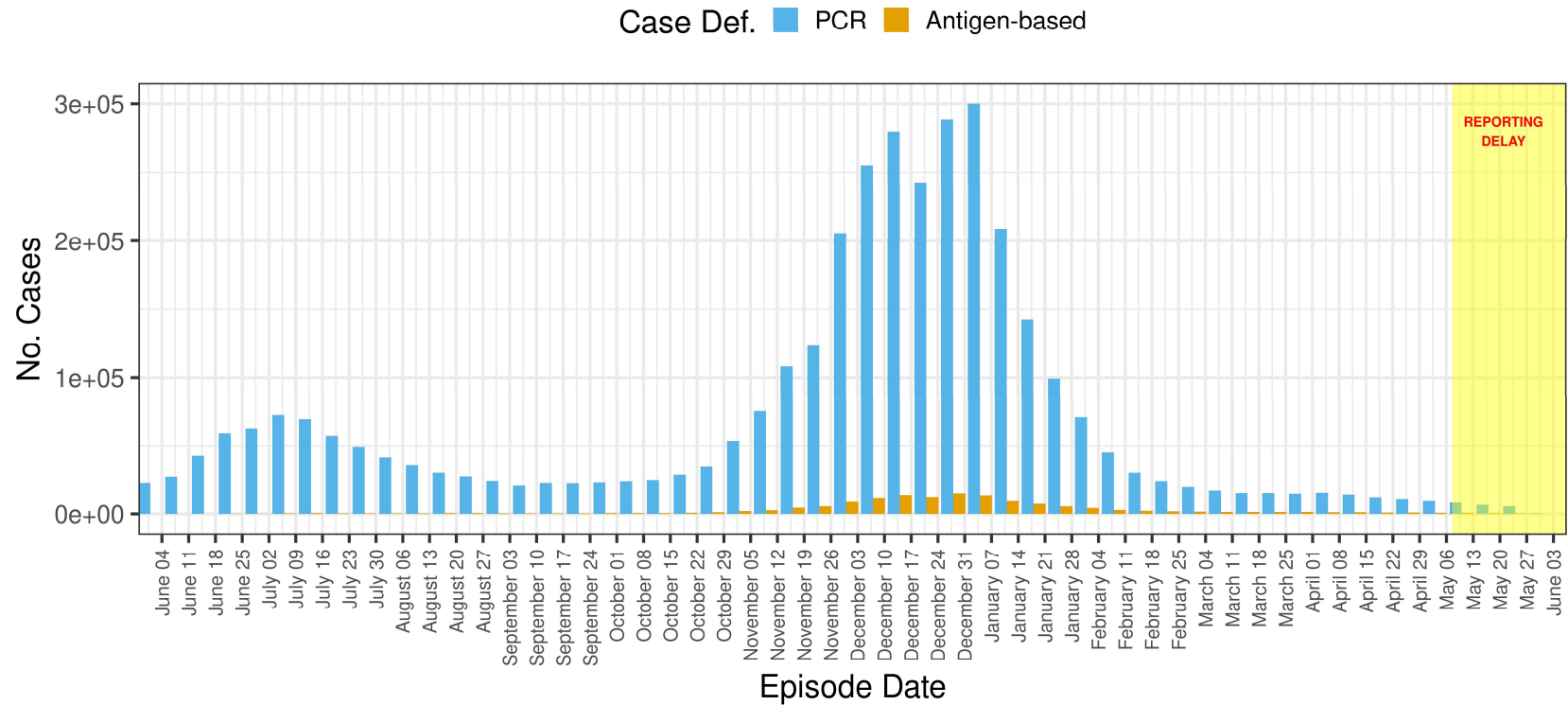
Deaths by Date of Death

As of June 7, 2021



Case and death data from CalREDIE. Hospitalization data from CHQC  
X 3/2/2021: 10% full vax  
XX 3/16/2021: 20% full vax  
XXX 4/14/2021: 30% full vax  
XXXX 5/2/2021: 40% full vax  
2021-06-07 16:22:20

# Confirmed & Probable Cases



*Case classification for PCR positive and Antigen positive cases are mutually exclusive. Cases containing both PCR positive and Antigen positive results are considered PCR-confirmed. If only antigen is positive, they are considered as probable.*

# The Disparities in our Diverse Communities are Severe



# Accomplishments

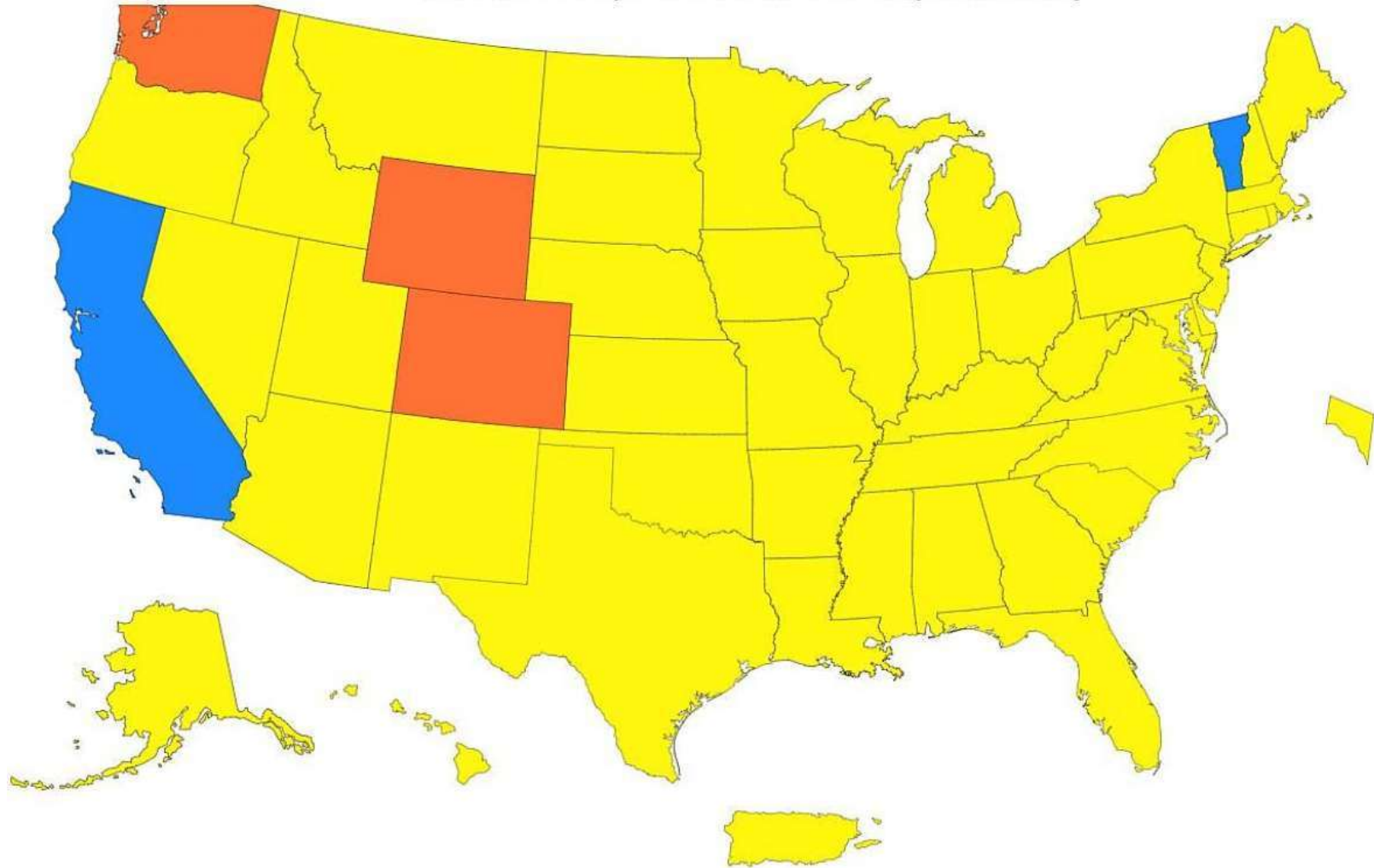
- Identified potential sites for mobile vaccination van deployment in communities with low vaccination and outreach rates
- Worked with LHJ teams to schedule events for mobile vans.
- Scheduled additional Public Health clinics in schools and churches
- Visited employer-sponsored clinic at food distribution center (see picture); using as model to engage other employers with previous outbreak incidents
- Met with police and Fire Departments, to schedule mobile clinics



## Next steps to understand what's working to drive COVID-19 vaccinations

- **Launch a poll/survey** to understand **drivers for people** to get vaccinated (e.g., convenient locations, incentives) and **sources of information** (e.g., radio, social media)
- **Poll** will be launched as:
  - **Exit polls** at Mobile/ pop-up sites (incl. mobile vans)
  - **Statewide survey** for any individuals who have been vaccinated in the last 30 days
- Operationalization considerations
  - **Streamlined** questionnaire with 2-3 questions (<2 min for completion)
  - Taken either at **check-in** or during **15-min observation period**
  - **Deployed via iPads/iPhones, QR code, paper-based**
- Expected date for initial results: 6/15

Level of Community Transmission of COVID-19, by State/Territory

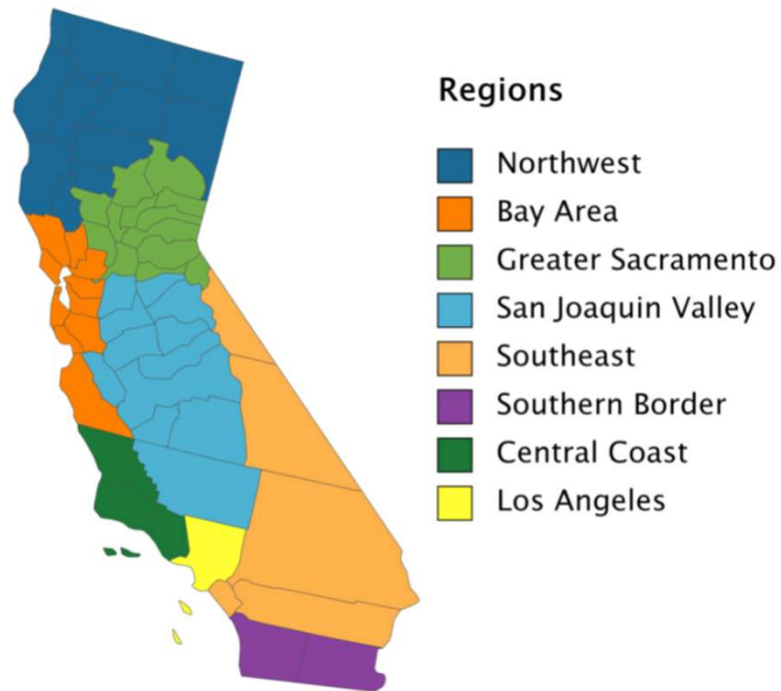


[https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases\\_casesper100klast7days](https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#cases_casesper100klast7days)  
As of 6/6/21



# Seroprevalence by Region (05/2/21 - 05/29/21)

Counties by Region in California



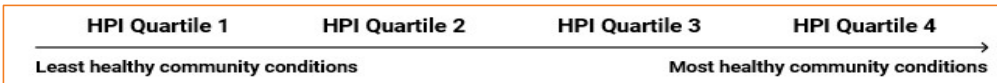
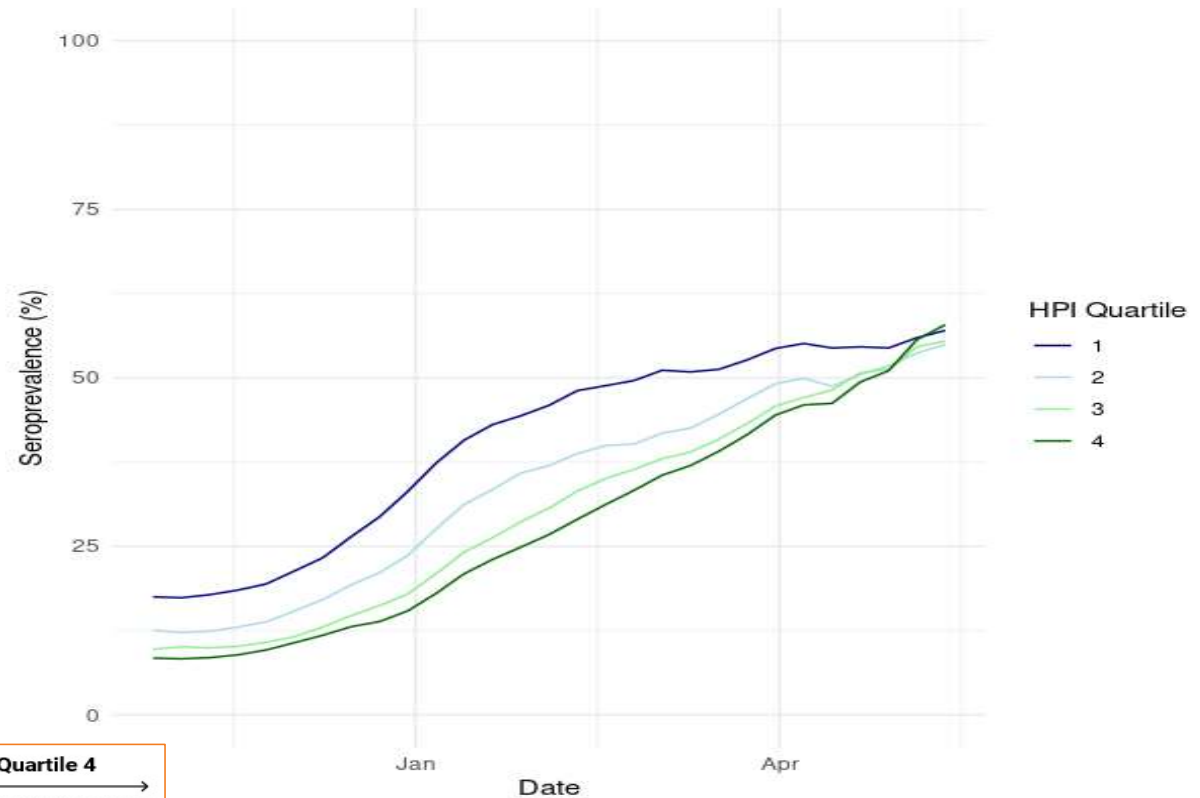
4-Week Average Seroprevalence\*

<b>California</b>	<b>86.3</b>
<b>Bay Area</b>	<b>90.1</b>
<b>Central Coast</b>	<b>83.4</b>
<b>Greater Sacramento</b>	<b>85.0</b>
<b>Los Angeles</b>	<b>86.0</b>
<b>Northern California</b>	<b>70.0</b>
<b>San Joaquin Valley</b>	<b>87.3</b>
<b>Southeast</b>	<b>82.3</b>
<b>Southern Border</b>	<b>91.0</b>

# Seroprevalence Update

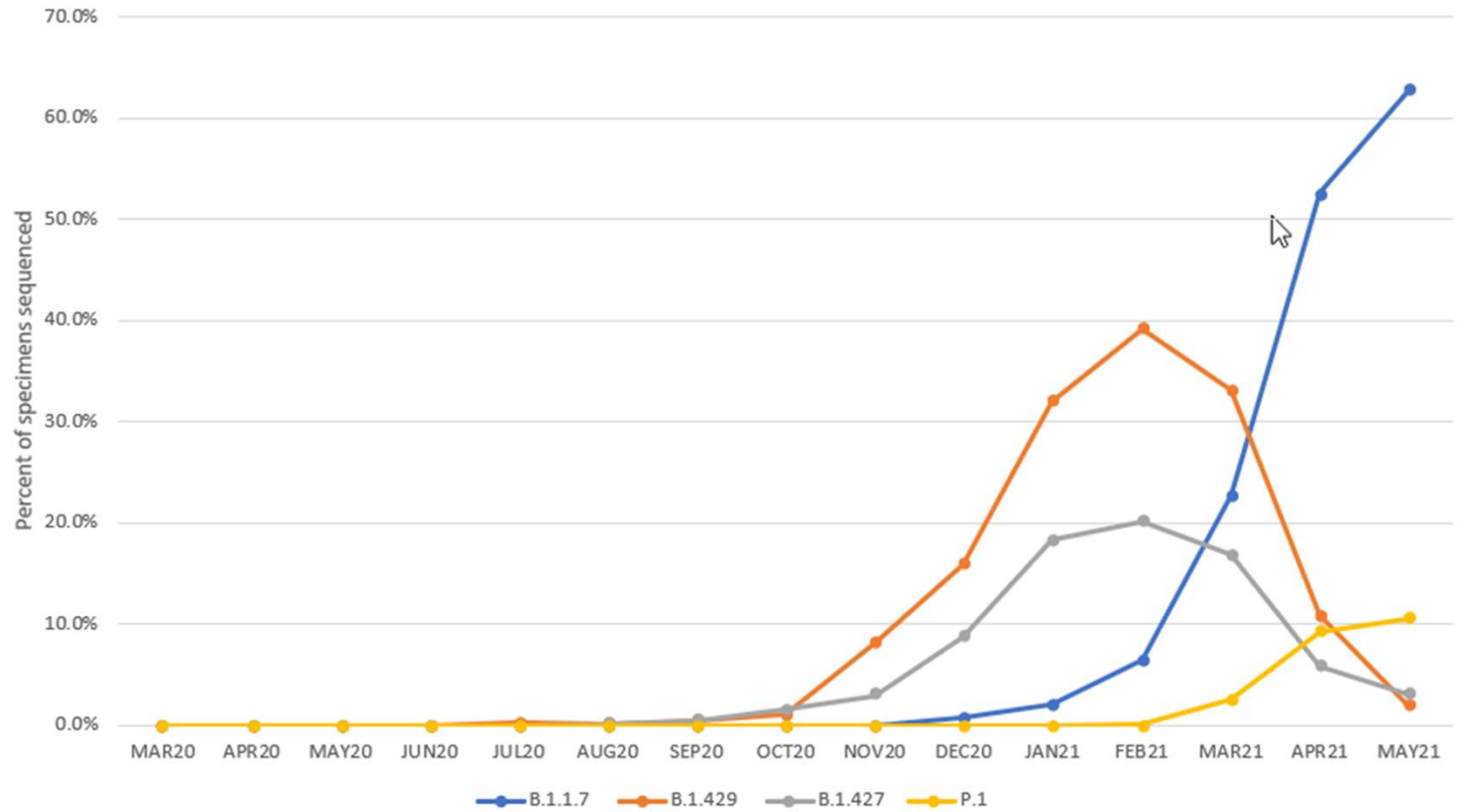
**Because of vaccination, areas with the most healthy community conditions have seen a sharp rise in seroprevalence**

- Prior to this, Californians living in the least healthy community conditions had the highest seroprevalence.
- All groups saw large increases in seroprevalence in December, but the steepest increase was in those living in the lowest HPI quartile.
- As of May 27, 2021, **more than 50%** of Californians had detectable antibodies against SARS-CoV-2 in CalREDIE



# Variant Update

More Commonly Detected Variants of Concern and Interest in California, by Specimen Collection Month, March 2020-May 2021



# Vaccine Doses Administered in California

	Count	Percent of population age 12 and older
<b>Total People with at least 1 Dose Administered *</b>	<b>22,087,873</b>	<b>65.1%</b>
Total People Partially Vaccinated	4,076,129	12.0%
Total People Fully Vaccinated	18,011,744	53.1%

	Count	Percent of population age 65 and older
<b>Total People 65 and older with at least 1 Dose Administered *</b>	<b>5,146,348</b>	<b>77.5%</b>
Total People Partially Vaccinated	763,111	11.5%
Total People Fully Vaccinated	4,383,237	66.0%

# Vaccine Equity Metric, June 5

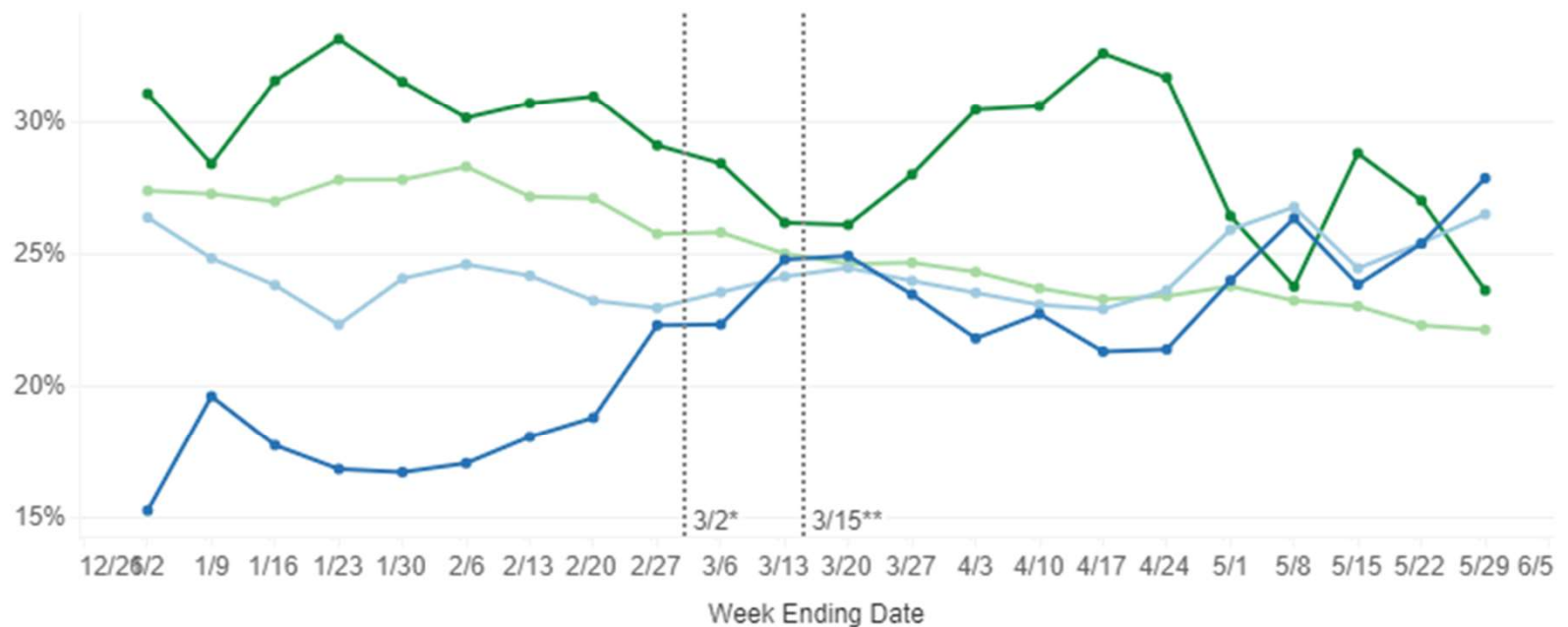
Select 1+ Dose or Fully Vaccinated

1+ Dose

Vaccine Equity Metric Quartile

1 2 3 4

1+ dose represents individuals who have received at least one dose of any COVID-19 vaccine.



\* 3/2: [Allocated more vaccines to lowest quartile](#)

\*\* 3/15: [Started vaccinating individuals at higher risk](#)

## Post-vaccination COVID-19 Confirmed Cases among Fully Vaccinated individuals – Jan 1, 2021-May 26, 2021

**> 17.0  
million**  
Fully Vaccinated  
Individuals

**5,305**  
post-vaccination  
cases (0.030%)

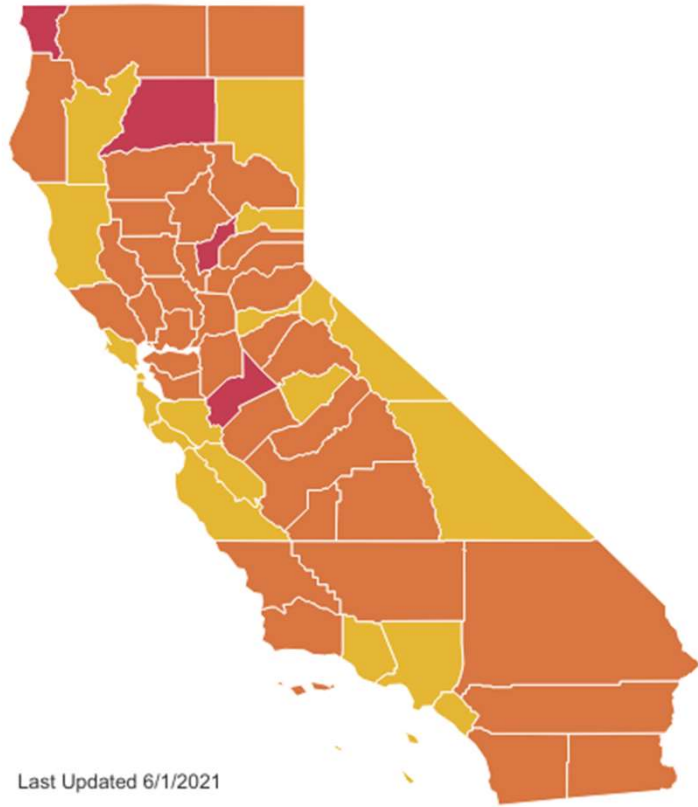
Of the 5,305 cases

**373**  
were hospitalized

**40**  
died

- These cases are identified by matching immunization and confirmed case (PCR) registries
- Post-vaccination cases are defined as cases that occurred in individuals who are fully vaccinated and have a positive SARS-CoV-2 molecular (PCR) test  $\geq$  14 days after a full vaccination by either two-dose or one-dose vaccine series
- Missing hospitalization status on 50% of cases
- Unclear of hospitalizations or deaths can be attributed to COVID
- Methods continue to undergo validation within CDPH and local health departments

# Beyond the Blueprint – June 15<sup>th</sup>



On June 15, California is expected to fully reopen and capacity and distancing restrictions will be lifted for most businesses and activities. The county tier system based on the Blueprint for a Safer Economy will no longer be in effect.

# Beyond the Blueprint – June 15<sup>th</sup>

## For Indoor Mega Events >5000 (example: conventions/conferences/expos/sporting events and concerts):

- Verification of fully vaccinated status\*\* or pre-entry negative test\* result required.

## For Outdoor Mega Events >10,000 (example: music or food festivals/car shows/large endurance events and marathons/parades/sporting events and concerts):

- Verification of fully vaccinated status or pre-entry negative test result is strongly recommended.
- Attendees who do not verify vaccination status should be asked to wear face coverings.

Restrictions Applying to Indoor & Outdoor Settings	
<b>Vaccine Verification / Negative Testing</b>	Required for <b>Indoor</b> mega events Recommended for <b>Outdoor</b> mega events
<b>Capacity Limitations</b>	No restrictions
<b>Physical Distancing</b>	No restrictions for attendees, customers and guests
<b>Masking</b>	Follow current <a href="#">CDPH Guidance for Face Coverings</a>
<b>Travelers</b>	Follow <a href="#">CDC</a> recommendations and <a href="#">CDPH Travel Advisory</a>



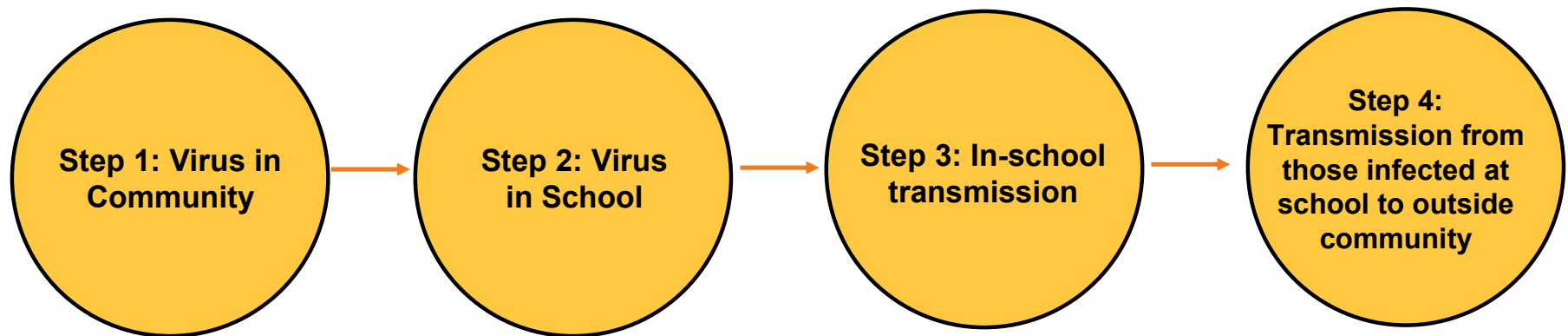
# Suppression Phase of Pandemic

## Public Health must continue:

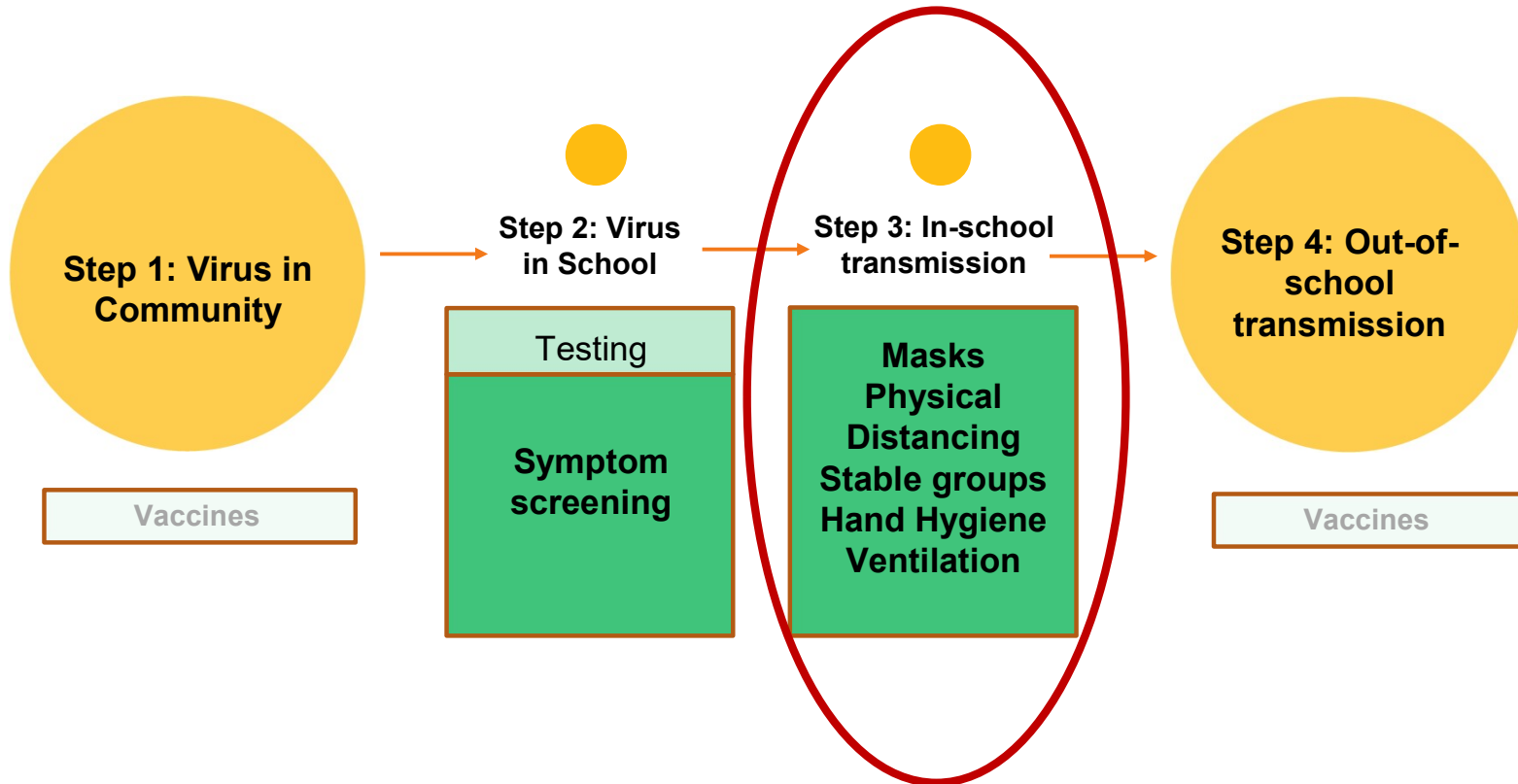
- Vaccination
- Surveillance & Laboratory
- Case, Contact, Outbreak Investigation
- Isolation & Quarantine Support
- Healthcare Surge readiness
- Safe Schools
- Public Health Guidance



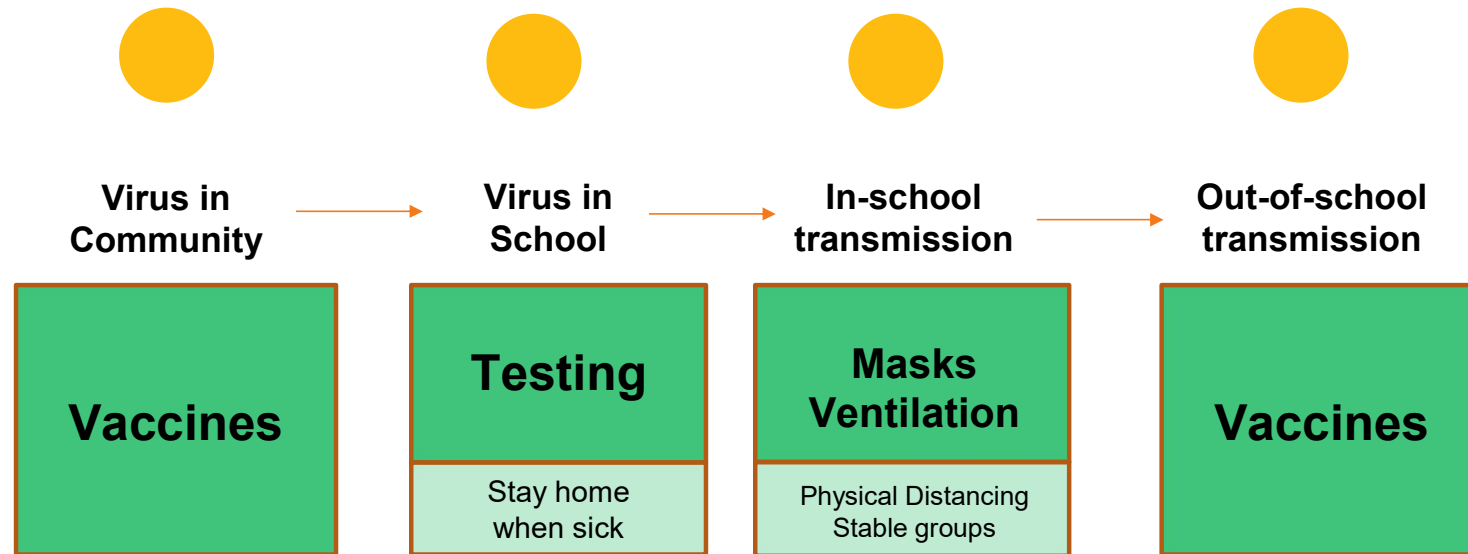
# Transmission in K-12 Schools (and all indoor environments)



# Relationships in Fall 2020 and Winter 2021



# Relationships in Fall 2021





## Vaccines:

Prioritization  
Safety: Benefits vs Risks  
“Passports”  
Mandates

- Individual liberties vs public protection
- Mandate vs Harm Reduction
- Equity
- Interventions & Consequences
  - Transmission vs SDOH

# Resources for Providers

- Vaccine Administration
  - EZIZ: <https://eziz.org/covid/enrollment/>
  - CalVax: <https://calvax.cdph.ca.gov/s/>
  - CDPH Immunization Branch:  
<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Immunization/COVIDVaccineEnrollment.aspx#>
- The COVID-19 Call Center for Providers is dedicated to medical providers in California and their COVID-19 response, specifically addressing questions about program requirements, enrollment, and vaccine distribution.
  - Email: [covidcallcenter@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:covidcallcenter@cdph.ca.gov)
  - Phone: (833) 502-1245
  - For technical system issues with CalVax: [Helpdesk.CalVax@calvax.accenture.com](mailto:Helpdesk.CalVax@calvax.accenture.com)
- CDC Resources
  - CDC general vaccine resources: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines)
  - CDC LTCF toolkit: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/toolkits/long-term-care/index.html>



# Question & Answer

Thank you!



# Arthur L. Caplan, PhD

**Drs. William F and Virginia  
Connolly Mitty Chair Director**

**Division of Medical Ethics**

**\*Please note that Dr. Caplan  
does not have slides for his  
presentation.**





# Question and Answer



**Kimberly Newell Green, M.D.**

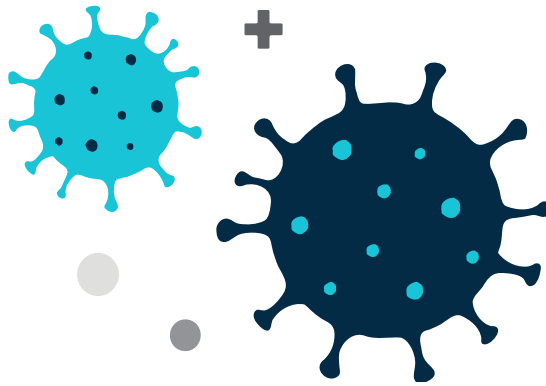


**Erica Pan M.D., MPH.**



**Arthur L. Caplan, PhD**

# Next Webinars in Series



- Tuesday, July 13, 2021
- More information at [www.covidroundsca.org](http://www.covidroundsca.org)

# CMA Telehealth “Tipping Point” Project



- Two Webinars per Month  
<https://www.cmadoocs.org/telehealth-webinars>
- Online Telehealth Resource Center  
– *Coming Soon!*

*Made possible by the generous support of the California Health Care Foundation*



# CME

- Will receive an email after this webinar with an evaluation around 5pm
- Upon receiving your response, you will receive a CME certificate





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**THANK YOU**

[covidrounds@cmadocs.org](mailto:covidrounds@cmadocs.org)