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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TITLE: Certain High-Risk Patients Under 65 Qualify For COVID-19 Vaccine with Referral

The Madera County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) is providing temporary guidance for COVID-19 vaccination of persons with medical conditions that are not currently considered in prioritization guidance. A list of conditions which do not meet the state threshold *on their own* are as follows:

- Cancer (current diagnosis, not history of)
- Chronic kidney disease of any stage
- COPD including emphysema and chronic bronchitis
- Down Syndrome
- Heart Failure, coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathies and pulmonary hypertension
- Immunocompromised state from solid organ transplant, blood or bone marrow transplant, HIV with low CD4 count, current use of oral corticosteroids, or other immune weakening medicine.
- Obesity
- Pregnancy
- Sickle cell disease and thalassemia
- Current or former smoker
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus

Categories of Health Alert Messages:

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

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However, MCDPH recognizes patients may have presentations whose clinical situation is not addressed by the list of single diagnoses above, either due to severity or a diagnosis that is not on the list. If a provider believes they have a patient that would be at significantly higher risk of morbidity and mortality than patients with the single diagnoses above the provider can refer this patient to the health department for consideration of vaccine eligibility.

In order to ensure those patients are able to receive the vaccine, MCDPH is requesting that healthcare providers in Madera County refer qualifying patients for the COVID-19 vaccine. We are expanding eligibility to include those most at risk for hospitalization and death.

Your patients may qualify for COVID-19 vaccination with your referral if:

- you believe they would be at significantly higher risk of morbidity and mortality from COVID-19 infection than most cases on the list above either due to severity or the presence of multiple conditions
- they have living conditions challenging to isolation

More details outlining qualifying conditions can be found on the referral form attached. Please complete one form per qualifying patient and submit via email to vaccinereferral@maderacounty.com. For questions or more information, please visit our website at www.maderacounty.com/covid19vaccine or contact us via phone or email using the contact information provided at the top of this alert.

Enclosures: “High Risk Referral Form for COVID-19 Immunization of Patients Under Age 65 with Significant High-Risk Medical Conditions 2.16.2021.pdf” and “Temporary Guidance for COVID-19 Immunization of Patients Under Age 65 with Significant High-Risk Medical Conditions 2.16.2021.pdf”

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