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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TITLE: High-Risk Patients Under 65 Qualify For COVID-19 Vaccine without Referral

California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recently expanded eligibility to include a multitude of high-risk patients.

Madera County Department of Public Health *is not requiring physician referral* or any documentation other than the patient's self-attestation. We are urging local providers to reach out to their patients to ensure they receive the vaccine.

Eligibility includes those with:

- Cancer, current with debilitated or immunocompromised state
- Chronic kidney disease, stage four or above
- COPD, oxygen dependent
- Down Syndrome
- Heart conditions, such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies (excludes hypertension)
- Immunocompromised state from solid organ transplant
- Severe obesity (BMI \geq 40 kg/m²)
- Pregnancy
- Sickle cell disease and thalassemia
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus with hemoglobin A1c level greater than 7.5%

Categories of Health Alert Messages:

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In addition to those with the above conditions, patients with a physical or mental disability who face the following risks are also eligible:

- The individual is likely to develop severe life-threatening illness or death from COVID-19 infection.
- Acquiring COVID-19 will limit the individual's ability to receive ongoing care or services vital to their well-being and survival.
- Providing adequate and timely COVID care will be particularly challenging as a result of the individual's disability

Due to these changes, the referral form and process previously used for high-risk patients is no longer necessary. All patients may register directly and self-attest to their conditions.

We ask that providers reach their patients who meet the above criteria and inform them of their eligibility.

Patients may register for vaccination through the MCDPH website this week for a variety of appointments at www.maderacounty.com/covid19vaccine.

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Enclosures: "Rescinded High Risk Referral Form for COVID-19 Immunization of Patients Under Age 65 with Significant High-Risk Medical Conditions 3.16.2021.pdf" and

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