

Serving Working Residents through COVID Vaccination Clinic Hour Expansion

Global data has begun to prove the effect of mass COVID-19 vaccination: a slow, safe re-opening of our society. This vaccine is vital to curb the spread of this deadly pandemic, particularly for those who cannot work from home. This includes the tens of thousands of essential workers and their families in the County who have been particularly hard-hit by COVID-19. To ensure that every person can readily obtain a vaccination, it becomes the duty of those administering the vaccinations to make it widely available and easily accessible. To date, the biggest roadblock to getting people vaccinated has been the limited supply of available doses. However, this will not always be the case, and we must have an appropriately robust infrastructure in place to quickly and efficiently delivery vaccines when supply is no longer so limited.

Los Angeles County has steadily increased the geographic diversity of their COVID-19 vaccination clinics; however, the hours remain limited. This poses the most barriers for those who have strict work and family commitments during the days, such as restaurant workers, childcare providers, and other essential work personnel. We

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must consider the option of expanding COVID-19 vaccination centers to include late night and early morning hours, possibly even with 24/7 options in some locations.

Although the average American works an average of 34 hours weekly per the national Bureau of Labor Statistics, many essential and low-income workers must spend significantly more hours at their jobs. These people often work two or three different jobs to make ends meet, especially if hourly wages are low. Such low-income groups have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, with mortality rates three to four times higher in the lowest-income community compared to the highest income communities.

Low income and essential workers are also largely made up of immigrants. As with all County residents, immigrants need protection from COVID-19, regardless of whether they have legal immigration status or not. If we neglect to vaccinate this significant portion of our population, we will never reach sufficient immunity on a population level to contain the virus to the extent needed to enable the County to fully re-open.

Not only do immigrants make up over 40% of Los Angeles's workforce, they also work in essential industries. According to a recent report from the nonpartisan policy institute American Progress, approximately 25 percent of workers in farming, fishing, and forestry occupations are undocumented, as are 16 percent of workers in construction and extraction occupations; 15 percent of workers in building and grounds cleaning and maintenance occupations; 8.7 percent of workers in food preparation and serving-related occupations; 7.7 percent of workers in production occupations; and 5.6 percent of workers in transportation and material moving occupation. These essential

jobs require healthy workers, and only an effective vaccination program can allow these immigrant labor-dependent industries to thrive in the future. And they require that vaccination centers are open late at night and early in the morning, beyond standard business operating hours.

Vaccinations must be distributed quickly and equitably. We must ensure that all people in the County, regardless of race, creed, or immigration status, get vaccinated if we are to ever achieve a truly healthy County, and this means providing COVID-19 vaccines at hours when essential workers and others can get to the clinics, be it early morning or overnight.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors to:

1. Instruct the Department of Health Services and Department of Public Health, working with labor partners, to assess the need for extending clinic hours, including cost to operate overnight and report back in 21 days.
2. Instruct the County Emergency Operations Center in coordination with Incident Command to assess the effectiveness of current hours of operation at County-run large vaccination sites and develop a strategy to increase operational effectiveness and efficiency at the County-run sites with a report back in 14 days.

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