



Date: February 23, 2021

To: San Joaquin County Medical Community

From: Maggie Park, MD, Health Officer *Maggie Park*

COVID-19 Health Advisory

Availability of Monoclonal Antibodies Treatment in San Joaquin County

Outpatient monoclonal antibody (MAB) treatment for COVID-19 has proven very effective in preventing hospitalizations and deaths in high-risk groups if used early in the course of COVID-19 infection. San Joaquin General Hospital (SJGH) and San Joaquin County Clinics (SJCC) are running an outpatient infusion clinic for COVID-19 monoclonal antibody treatment. They are taking referrals from medical providers for outpatients with COVID-19 who meet specific criteria. Please see the attached notice *Referrals for Outpatient Monoclonal Antibody Infusions for COVID-19* for information on eligibility and how to refer patients to SJGH Clinics for treatment. This service is available to all patients who meet these criteria regardless of their health insurance status. MAB treatment is a one-time infusion over an hour. Total appointment time is about 3 hours. The referral packet for clinicians is available at http://www.sjcphs.org/Healthcare_Providers/providers_landing.aspx. Call (209) 468-6820 for appointments.

Quarantine Changes for Fully Vaccinated Persons

The CDC recently posted new guidance that persons who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 (i.e., who are ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series) and who are exposed to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they are within 3 months following receipt of the last dose in the series, and have remained asymptomatic since the exposure. They should still monitor themselves for symptoms for 14 days, isolate themselves and get tested for COVID-19 if symptoms occur. Also, vaccinated persons still need to follow current COVID-19 guidance to protect themselves and others, including wearing a mask, staying at least 6 feet away from others, avoiding crowds, avoiding poorly ventilated spaces, covering coughs and sneezes, washing hands often, following CDC travel guidance, and following any applicable workplace or school guidance. The exception is for fully vaccinated inpatients and residents in healthcare settings who should continue to follow CDPH quarantine guidance for healthcare settings following an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. For more information on these quarantine changes see http://www.sjcphs.org/Isolation_Quarantine.aspx.



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Vaccine Breakthrough and Variant Surveillance

Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) for SARS-CoV-2 can be considered when there is a concern for 1) breakthrough COVID-19 illness in a person who is fully immunized (i.e., who is ≥ 2 weeks following receipt of the second vaccine dose in a 2-dose series), 2) someone diagnosed with a second infection (ie: tests positive for COVID-19 more than 90 days following an initial positive test and has new symptoms), or 3) someone suspected of having one of the variants of concern. Patients to consider for WGS are those who test positive following recent international travel, exposure to individuals with recent international travel, S gene drop out (only seen in some SARS-CoV-2 lab assays) and re-infection or vaccine failures. Also consider in a patient who receives monoclonal antibody treatment and fails to improve. In any of these situations please contact San Joaquin County Public Health Services at (209) 468-3828. (The laboratory CT value must be 30 or less for WGS testing approval.) Testing prioritization will be given to patients who are hospitalized or in a skilled nursing facility.

COVID-19 Testing

There has been a large decrease in the volume of COVID-19 testing throughout the state. Testing is still a key strategy in community COVID-19 mitigation. It allows for isolation of those infected, contact tracing, and quarantine of those exposed. As new more aggressive variants come into the community, robust testing of those with symptoms of COVID-19 and those who have had close contact with cases are essential to prevent another upswing in disease. It is important that the medical community continues to encourage their patients with symptoms of COVID-19 or those exposed to others who are infectious to get tested. Identifying new cases is essential to controlling this disease in our county.

Attachment: Referrals for SJGH Outpatient Monoclonal Antibodies Treatment Infusion



San Joaquin General Hospital • San Joaquin County Clinics

February 16, 2021

Referrals for Outpatient Monoclonal Antibody Infusions for COVID-19

San Joaquin General Hospital (SJGH) and San Joaquin County Clinics (SJCC) are running an outpatient infusion clinic for COVID-19 monoclonal antibody treatment. They are taking referrals from San Joaquin County medical providers for outpatients with COVID-19 who meet the criteria below. This service is available to all patients who meet these criteria regardless of their health insurance status. This a one-time infusion over an hour. Total appointment time is about 3 hours.

Criteria for Monoclonal Antibody Infusion at SJGH:

- Patient has laboratory confirmed SARS-CoV-2 infection either by antigen or molecular PCR test, **AND**
- Has at least one symptom of mild or moderate COVID-19 disease, **AND**
- Onset of symptoms \leq 10 days
- **PLUS at least one** of the following:
 - Age \geq 65
 - BMI \geq 35
 - CKD
 - Diabetes
 - Age \geq 55 with at **least one** of the following conditions:
 1. Cardiovascular disease
 2. COPD or other chronic respiratory disease
 3. HTN
 4. Immunosuppressive disease
 5. Currently receiving immunosuppressive medications

Patients with any of the following are not eligible for treatment:

- Onset of symptoms $>$ 10 days prior to start of treatment
- Need for hospital admission
- Requiring supplemental oxygen OR requiring increase in baseline oxygen flow rate if on chronic oxygen supplementation
- Presence of any condition likely to predict poor clinical outcome with SARs-Covid-19

For the referral packet see http://www.sjcphs.org/Healthcare_Providers/providers_landing.aspx.

The doctor must complete this referral packet including the consent in advance. Patients must bring a copy of their signed consent and referral package to their monoclonal antibody infusion clinic appointment.

Call 209-468-6820 to make an infusion clinic appointment.