

FIRE CHIEF'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 2021

This month as we celebrate and demonstrate the act and power of love for those who are special to us, we also recognize our own dedication and love for community.

After all, our mission of serving as proud protectors of life and property is what motivates us every day as first responders, professional staff, and as an agency.

We are driven to care for others because we love what we do – and we are committed to helping people.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, I have seen extraordinary acts of caring and kindness as we work with one another to get through this difficult time.

Through empathy and teamwork, we have managed to accomplish great things that truly affect the lives of our residents in positive ways.

At the very start of this global emergency, our Fire Department immediately collaborated with a multitude of County departments and agencies to set up and operate COVID-19 testing sites throughout Los Angeles, including areas hardest hit by the pandemic.

When personal protective equipment (PPE) was scarce, our team members sourced materials through every means possible and from all over the globe.

We did not give up and we refused to compromise on the safety and well-being of our first responders and the patients in our care.



Almost a year later, I remain in awe of how much selflessness, effort, and time are spent to make sure the delivery of our services is not interrupted or hindered – and our residents continue to feel protected and safe.

Now, our focus has evolved once again. As COVID-19 testing sites shift to vaccination clinics, our current responsibilities now pivot to providing and assisting with preventative care. Our communities are counting on us again to be there as we always are.

There are nearly 100 Fire Department team members who are supporting the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health's massive campaign to vaccinate as many residents as possible.

Firefighters, lifeguards, and professional staff assigned to the Fire Department's Incident Management Team (IMT), while serving as disaster service workers, are among the diverse group of County employees assisting in this coordinated effort.



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The Fire Chief's Message is a monthly communication from the Fire Chief of the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

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IMT members are working directly at each of the County's two walk-up Mini-pods (El Sereno Park in Los Angeles and Balboa Sports Complex in Encino) and five drive-thru Mega-pods located at Magic Mountain in Valencia; The Forum in Inglewood; the Office of Education in Downey; the Fairplex in Pomona; and Cal State University, Northridge.

To accelerate the national vaccination effort, each of the Mega-pod vaccine clinics operates seven days a week with staff on-site from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Mini-pods only operate Tuesday through Friday.

Only individuals who meet the current requirements may make an appointment and enter to receive their vaccines.

So far, nearly 275,000 vaccinations have been administered at the Mini- and Mega-pods.

With ramped-up vaccine production and delivery, each Mega-pod is designed to provide up to 4,000 shots per day.



If we continue to see improvement and success as well as ample supplies of vaccines, the County envisions the existing infrastructure to support a total of 25,000 to 30,000 vaccinations per day at all locations.

This is the turning point that we have been waiting for – and I hope we can remain patient as we steadily make our way to the end of this very long tunnel.

As we draw closer to one year of being in the COVID-19 pandemic, we are reminded of what we have been through together as a Fire Department team and as a family. We have faced so much but we should be very proud of what we have accomplished thus far. However, we must remember that our work is not done yet.

For now, I want to thank you for putting in every ounce of compassion, dedication, and love into making sure that we beat this pandemic – rather than it getting the best of us.

Do Your Part & Help Us #FlexYourDefense



**FLEX YOUR
DEFENSE**

AGAINST COVID-19

**FORTALEZCA
SU DEFENSA**

CONTRA COVID-19



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