



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 Wednesday, March 3, 2021

UPDATE: Second Dose of COVID-19 Vaccine Administered at Convention Center

SAN DIEGO – After receiving their [first vaccination just one month ago](#), a number of residents and staff at Operation Shelter to Home today received the second dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, administered by City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department firefighters and lifeguards at the San Diego Convention Center.

On Feb. 3, there were 41 people experiencing homelessness and 61 shelter and outreach staff members at the Convention Center who were eligible according to the [County of San Diego's Phase 1B – Tier 1 guidelines](#) at the time and opted to receive the vaccine.

“It has been a unique opportunity to be involved with Operation Shelter to Home over the past year during the COVID-19 pandemic. Being able to offer the vaccinations to this vulnerable population is an important milestone and speaks to the care and effort that the City has placed on protecting the health of our homeless population,” said Deputy Fire-Rescue Chief Chris Heiser, who serves as the Incident Commander for the operation at the Convention Center and oversees the City’s vaccination efforts.”

In the weeks leading up to the initial vaccination effort, the City of San Diego worked closely with the County, San Diego Housing Commission and homeless service providers Alpha Project and Father Joe’s Villages to provide information to clients about the vaccines, develop notification and scheduling procedures, and establish an on-site workflow for administering the vaccines.

Individuals who are experiencing homelessness and fit into the current criteria for vaccination are able to make appointments via the County’s online system or through their healthcare provider. For more information about COVID-19 vaccine distribution, visit coronavirus-sd.com/vaccine.

BACKGROUND ON OPERATION SHELTER TO HOME

Operation Shelter to Home launched on April 1 by moving individuals already in shelters into the San Diego Convention Center to allow for proper physical distancing to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Because the effects of the pandemic were creating staffing challenges at the City's various shelters, the program centralized staff in one place to ensure personnel could be efficient even with limited numbers.

One of the core missions of Operation Shelter to Home is to find permanent housing for individuals. So far, the agencies have housed more than 1,234 individuals and 43 families during the pandemic with more than 200 others in the process of finding a permanent or longer-term housing solution.

The emergency shelter is a collaborative effort between the City of San Diego, County of San Diego, San Diego Housing Commission, Regional Task Force on the Homeless, San Diego Convention Center and homeless service providers, Alpha Project and Father Joe's Villages.

Updates on the shelter are posted online at sandiego.gov/coronavirus/shelertohome.

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