

NORWALK CHAMBER VIRTUAL HOLIDAY MIXER

Norwalk Chamber held their annual Holiday Mixer as a virtual event on Wednesday, December 9th. This fun filled event was different this year, as so many other events have been, but we were still able to connect virtually, recognize our supporters and sponsors and even had a visit from Santa Claus! We would like to thank those that stepped up to sponsor our event:

GOLD SPONSORS:

Farmers & Merchants Bank, Amanda Blanton
Norwalk Records, Richard Sneed

SILVER SPONSORS:

City of Norwalk, Mayor Jennifer Perez
Norwalk Community Coordinating Council, President Gordon Stefenhagen
City of Norwalk, Norwalk City Council Member, Ana Valencia

We also thank those that donated to our Ice Chest O'Holiday Cheer and our raffle baskets:

Amanda Blanton, Scentsy • John Alba, Alba Professional Services/H & R Block • Jorge & Cynthia Lizarraga, Grocery Outlet • Karla Butler, Thompson & Associates • Trisha Gutierrez, QM Fundraising • Farid Khansarinia, Chick-fil-A • Richard LeGaspri, TNT Fireworks • Gary Murphy, Norwalk Florist • Ric Ochoa, So Cal Pizza • Jose Rios, Rios & Garcia Team, TNG Realty • Gordon Stefenhagen, Norwalk Realty • Joseph Derthick, AFLAC • Teri Bazen, Ambassador • Lynda Fisher, Ambassador • Irma Macias, Community Family Guidance Center

Attendees were able to network via ZOOM, play some fun trivia games and win some great prizes. While we could not be in person as we usually are, we were able to make the most by connecting virtually and enjoying an evening together before the hustle and bustle of the holidays took place. Look for your opportunity to connect with each other and expand your business opportunities at our next virtual networking event!

GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



The Ice Chest O'Holiday Cheer and raffle prizes are awaiting the start of the Holiday Mixer.



Raffle Basket donations for the holiday mixer, provided by Joseph Derthick, AFLAC, and Amanda Blanton, Scentsy.



Holiday Mixer Gold Sponsor Richard Sneed of Norwalk Records is pictured here with Santa Claus and his store manager Edie Gonzalez.



At the Virtual Holiday Mixer, Santa Claus showed up to help our Chamber Staff and brought Natalie LeGaspri of the Norwalk Soroptimist International with him also.



Additional raffle donations provided by Teri Bazen, Amanda Blanton and Farid Khansarinia.



Ana Laura Huerta of Alba Professional Services is the winner of the Chick-fil-A basket from the Holiday Mixer.



Alba Professional Services/H & R Block gets a delivery of the raffle basket winnings from the Holiday Mixer



Juanita Diaz of Community Family Guidance Center is the winner of our famous Ice Chest O' Holiday Cheer. She is pictured here with her prize!

Norwalk Chamber of Commerce
14783 Carmenita Road, Norwalk, CA 90650

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**Norwalk
Chamber of Commerce**

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www.norwalkchamber.com
info@norwalkchamber.com

Facebook:

http://on.fb.me/oB5EUM

PRESIDENT

AMANDA BLANTON

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EDITOR, NCBC

CAREN SPILSBURY



NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

New Members

Trita Me Nice
Rita DeBenedictis
562-577-7575
tritamenice@gmail.com
www.tritamenice.com

Sal Psychiatry Services
Ruth Aikoye
13132 Studebaker Rd.
Norwalk CA 90650
562-280-7176
lartbridges@gmail.com
www.salpsych.com

Renewing Members

The following companies and individuals renewed their membership with the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce and the services we provide are made possible by their support.

35 Years
Little Lake City School District
Dr. William Crean
562-868-8241
www.littlelake.k12.ca.us/

34 Years
Southeast Los Angeles Workforce Development Board
Yolanda Castro
562-402-9336
www.selaco.com

28 Years
Nationwide Environmental
Joe Samuelian
562-860-0604
www.nes-sweeping.com

8 Years
L & W Service Co. Inc.
James Etherton
562-868-9339
www.bluetowels.com

6 Years
Dr. Lawrence Goodwin
Coast Plaza Eye Clinic/Good Eyes
562-863-7000

5 Years
State Farm Insurance
Valente Quintero
562-474-1818
www.valquintero.com

**CALENDAR
OF EVENTS**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

PLEASE NOTE:

THESE DATES AND LOCATIONS COULD
BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO THE
COVID-19 PANDEMIC

January 9th

Virtual Los Posadas
Celebration
Will be broadcast
On local channels
And Social Media

January 20th

Board of Directors Meeting
Via ZOOM

January 20th

Norwalk Chamber
Restaurant Fundraiser
Kung Pao Bowl
12331 Imperial Hwy, Norwalk CA
Bring a flyer with you
To support the Norwalk Chamber

February 12th

Executive Committee
Meeting 12noon

February 17th

Board of Directors Meeting
9am via ZOOM

**February 19th
(Tentative)**

Paint Night Fundraiser

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Stater Bros. Markets Extends Hourly Employees \$2/hr. Incentive

Extension recognizes workers' dedication during the holidays

San Bernardino, California (December 22, 2020) – As a show of our appreciation for our Stater Bros. Family Members and their dedication to providing solutions for the shopping needs of Southern California families this holiday season, Stater Bros. Markets is pleased to announce a two-week extension of the \$2/hr. incentive for every hour worked. The incentive will run for an additional two (2) weeks, starting on the work period beginning Sunday, December 27,

2020. This incentive will apply to all of the company's hourly employees that work in the stores, distribution, transportation, corporate offices, and construction.

"I am extremely proud of our employees who remain dedicated to serving the needs of our Southern California shoppers. This incentive recognizes our employees for their ongoing extraordinary efforts during the holidays," said Stater Bros. CEO Pete Van Helden.

All Stater Bros. Markets locations are currently operating from 6:00 a.m. to

11:00 p.m. daily.

About Stater Bros. Markets: Stater Bros. Markets was founded in 1936 in Yucaipa, California, and has grown steadily through the years to become the largest privately-owned supermarket chain in Southern California. The Company currently operates 170 supermarkets, and there are over 18,000 members of the Stater Bros. Supermarket Family. Since 2008, Stater Bros. Markets and Stater Bros. Charities have contributed more than \$80 million in food and funds to local Southern California communities. For more information about Stater Bros. Markets, visit www.staterbros.com.

Su Casa – Ending Domestic Violence Receives \$1.25 Million Bezos Day 1 Families Fund Grant to End Homelessness

Day 1 Families Fund grants \$105.9 million to 42 nonprofits helping families gain housing support and stability

LONG BEACH, Calif. – (December 9, 2020): Su Casa – Ending Domestic Violence, a local agency providing shelter and supportive services to survivors of domestic violence, today announced that it has been selected to receive a \$1.25 million grant from the Day 1 Families Fund. Launched in 2018 by Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos, the Day 1 Families Fund issues annual leadership awards to organizations and civic groups doing compassionate, needle-moving work to provide shelter and hunger support to address the immediate needs of young families.

"Currently, there are less than 1,000 beds available in domestic violence shelters throughout Los Angeles County," stated Su Casa Executive Director Anna Conti,

"and with the generous support of Day 1 Families Fund, we will be able to address this critical need by focusing on capital expansion. Our goal is to increase our capacity by 50% and purchase a new property to add a new shelter."

This one-time grant, awarded to organizations doing meaningful work to connect families with shelter and support, will provide the opportunity for Su Casa to make significant expansion in capacity and increase services to more families. According to Conti, "Su Casa's board and staff have targeted this growth in our strategic plan and this generous grant will give us the ability to expand our services well before our projected timeline."

Su Casa is one of 42 nonprofits across the U.S. to receive the third annual Day 1 Families Fund grants, as part of a continuing commitment by the Day 1 Families Fund to help end homelessness for families. The Day 1 Families Fund issued a total of \$105.9 million in grants this year. To select these organizations, the fund worked with an advisory board of homelessness advocates and leaders whose expertise spans housing justice, racial equity, direct services, homelessness policy, equity for Native American communities and anti-poverty work.

This year, the grant recipients from around the country include: Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness; The Cathedral Center, Inc.; Catholic Charities of Acadiana; Coalition for Homelessness Intervention & Prevention; Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida; Community Action Council for Lexington-Fayette, Scott, Madison, Bourbon, Harrison and Nicholas County, Inc.; Congreso de Latinos Unidos; Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio; Denver Indian Family Resource Center; East Los Angeles Women's Center; East Oakland Community Project; Facing Forward to End Homelessness; Families Together; Family Life Center; Friendship

Place; HELP of Southern Nevada; The Homeless Families Foundation; Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Care System; HOPE Atlanta; House of Ruth; Housing Matters; Housing Up; Kahumana; MAHUBE-OTWA Community Action Partnership, Inc.; Metro Denver Homeless Initiative; MUST Ministries; National Center for Children and Families; Native American Youth and Family Center; North Carolina Coalition to End Homelessness; One80 Place; Poverello House; Rainbow Services; Refugee Women's Alliance; Safe Haven Family Shelter; Samaritan House; Solid Ground; St. Vincent de Paul CARES; Su Casa – Ending Domestic Violence; The Salvation Army Austin Area Command; Time for Change Foundation; United American Indian Involvement, Inc.; and WestCare California.

The Bezos Day One Fund was launched in 2018 with a commitment of \$2 billion and a focus on two areas: funding existing nonprofits that help homeless families, and creating a network of new, non-profit tier-one preschools in low-income communities. The Day 1 Families Fund issues annual leadership awards to organizations and civic groups doing compassionate, needle-moving work to provide shelter and hunger support to address the immediate needs of young families. The vision statement comes from the inspiring Mary's Place in Seattle: no child sleeps outside. For more information, visit www.BezosDayOneFund.org/ Day1FamiliesFund.

About Su Casa – Ending Domestic Violence Su Casa has been providing shelter and supportive services to the Greater Long Beach community for over 40 years. Core services include a 24/7 crisis hot line, an Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing and the newest program, Domestic Violence Housing First. Supportive services include domestic violence counseling, parental counseling, access to legal support, life skills education and support for youth in the survivor's family.



NORWALK CHAMBER FUNDRAISER

**SUPPORT THE NORWALK CHAMBER AT
KUNG PAO BOWL**

12331 Imperial Hwy
Norwalk CA 90650

Wednesday, January 20th, 2021
11am to 9pm

Visit Kung Pao Bowl to support our Norwalk Chamber Fundraiser.
Bring this flyer or let them know you are there to support the fundraiser.

A portion of your purchase will benefit Norwalk Chamber Programs

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Norwalk Chamber Members,

Well by now we are into the 2nd week of 2021, and we hope that you all had a safe and healthy holiday season! We at the Norwalk Chamber are wishing you all a safe and prosperous 2021 (and we hope that it comes quickly) There were so many ups and downs in 2020, with the pandemic, shut down orders, open back up again and then shut down once more, it had our heads spinning. As we move into 2021, with the new vaccines on the way, we are hoping that our businesses will once again be able to open up to serve the community. Until that happens, we encourage the community to continue to support our businesses. Remember that you can order food to go, purchase gift cards to be used later, shop on our business websites and promote them on your social media.

I want to thank all of our sponsors for our Annual Holiday Mixer. Although we were not able to meet in person we still had a great event and it was made possible by the support of our sponsors! Thanks to Farmers & Merchants Bank, Norwalk Records, Norwalk City Council and Mayor, and Norwalk Community Coordinating Council.

One important lesson that we all learned in 2020 that will help us in 2021 was to appreciate all of the people that we have in our lives. I want you all to know that I appreciate you and your involvement here with the Norwalk Chamber of Commerce. It is through our members that we are able to continue to bring information about navigating through the pandemic, to connect community members to resources and to advocate for the Norwalk business community. I appreciate all of your support and we look forward a better year in 2021!

Amanda Blanton

2020-2021 President, Norwalk Chamber of Commerce

Farmers & Merchants Bank

Labor Law Corner

California's New Series of COVID-19 Reporting Requirements

One of my employees just reported that they tested positive for COVID-19. Do I have to report this positive case?

During the 2020 California legislative session, COVID-19 forced lawmakers to pivot from their routine business to addressing the growing pandemic. In response, the Legislature enacted SB 1159 and AB 685 that created certain reporting requirements for employers when learning of a positive case.

Following up, Cal/OSHA recently approved and implemented COVID-19 emergency regulations that also create a set of reporting requirements. To help readers sort out these varied requirements, we have created the outline below outlining the reporting requirements when an employer learns of an employee contracting COVID-19. These requirements are currently in effect and apply only when the employee contracting COVID-19 is reporting to a worksite outside the home.

SB1159: Report any positive cases to your workers' compensation carrier. The report must be made via email or facsimile within three business days of learning of the case and contain the following information:

- An employee has tested positive, without revealing any personal information about the employee.
- The date the employee had their specimen taken for their test.
- The address of the worksite to which the employee reported.
- The highest number of employees who reported to that worksite over the preceding 45-day period.

AB685: Upon learning of a positive case in the workplace, an employer, within one business day, must provide the following written notices:

- To all employees (and their exclusive representative, if any), and the employers of subcontracted employees who were on the premises at the same worksite as the "qualifying individual within the infectious period" notice that they may have been exposed to COVID-19.
- To "all employees who may have been exposed" (and their exclusive representative, if any) information about COVID-19-related benefits to which they may be entitled under federal, state or local laws, as well as employer-provided benefits.
- To all employees (and their exclusive representative, if any) information about the disinfection and safety plan in place in accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines.

Cal OSHA Regulations: Upon learning of a positive case in the workplace, an employer, within one business day, must:

- Notify all employees (and their employees' authorized representatives), as well as independent contractors and employers of other workers who may have been

exposed to COVID-19 within one business day in a manner that does not reveal the COVID-19 case's personal identifying information.

COVID-19 Outbreaks

In addition to these reporting protocols, there are special rules under AB 685 and the Cal/OSHA emergency regulations when an employer experiences an outbreak at the worksite.

AB 685 defines outbreak in accordance with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) definition. Currently, the CDPH defines an outbreak as three positive cases in a 14-day period.

Cal/OSHA also uses this definition for outbreak; however, the emergency regulations also allow local public health departments to define outbreaks differently.

Upon learning of an outbreak as defined by AB 685 or Cal/OSHA, an employer, within 48 hours, must report the outbreak to the local health department. The employer must provide the names of the employees who have tested positive, their contact information, occupation, workplace location, business address, hospitalization and/or fatality status, and the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) code for the workplace. Employers also are required to provide any other information requested by the local health department. These reporting requirements are time-sensitive, so employers should plan and prepare for how they will meet these obligations even before experiencing a COVID-19 case in the workplace.

Gateway Chambers Alliance Business Symposium

On December 1st the Gateway Chambers Alliance hosted a virtual business symposium providing information to the business community from a variety of resources. The event started off with the President of the California Retailers Association, Rachel Michelin, who providing information on safe reopening strategies. She also spoke about the new shut down orders that the Governor imposed on November 29th. Next the attendees heard about different business resources from Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas Company, the Small Business Development Center, the Small Business Administration, and Southeast Los Angeles County Workforce Development Board. Additional speakers were Ann Smith, partner at Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo, Jonathan Herrera of CalSavers and April Szabo also with Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo. Ann Smith shared about SB1383 and the implications it has for small business. This new law takes effect in 2021 and will impact any business with five or more employees. John Herrera shared about current regulations that employers must follow with providing options for retirement plans for their employees and April Szabo gave her presentation on return to work considerations with regard to COVID-19. All of the presenters provided much needed resource support for our businesses as they continue to navigate the pandemic.

The Gateway chambers Alliance is a group of local chambers of commerce, businesses, and interested organizations joined together to represent the Gateway Region of Los Angeles County. The Alliance is a positive voice in local economic development, ambassadors for the business community, and a strong advocate for public policy impacting businesses and residents in and around the areas of the Gateway Region. With a focus on labor and workforce development, education, environment, utilities, infrastructure, laws and regulations, the Alliance is committed to making sure the Gateway Region remains an outstanding area to live, work and do business. Our Gateway Chambers include Norwalk, Montebello, Whittier, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, Downey, Paramount, Lakewood, Compton, Bell Gardens, South Gate, Cerritos and Artesia.

Creating a Strong Local Economy

- and -

Promoting the Community

The Norwalk Chamber of Commerce urges you to spend your money locally to support the business community and protect jobs.

*Local sales tax dollars support basic city services
When you shop in Norwalk, you are paying for...*

Public Safety Services

Recreation Programs

Street Repairs & Much More

Visit us at
www.NorwalkChamber.com

COVID CORNER: California Small Business & Non Profit Grants

The State of California has designated \$500 million dollars in small business relief grants in addition to previous financial support and incentives. The window to apply for these grants opened December 30th at 8am and has now been extended to January 13th at 11:59pm. Many businesses and non profits are eligible to apply for these grants. The criteria can be found at www.careliefgiant.com but below are some of the requirements and additional details about the grant program.

Eligibility

A small business or small nonprofit must satisfy the following criteria to be eligible to receive a grant award:

1. Must meet the definition of an "eligible small business". An "eligible small business" means (i) a "small business" (sole proprietor, independent contractor, 1099 work, and or registered "for-profit" business entity (e.g., C-corporation, S-corporation, limited liability company, partnership) that has yearly gross revenue of \$2.5 million or less (but at least \$1,000 in yearly gross revenue) based on most recently filed tax return) or (ii) a "small nonprofit" (registered 501(c)(3), 501(c)(19), or 501(c)(6) nonprofit entity having yearly gross revenue of \$2.5 million or less (but at least \$1,000 in yearly gross revenue) based on most recently filed Form 990)

2. Active businesses or nonprofits operating since at least June 1, 2019

3. Businesses must currently be operating or have a clear plan to re-open once the State of California permits re-opening of the business

4. Business must be impacted by COVID-19 and the health and safety restrictions such as business interruptions or business closures incurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

5. Business must be able to provide organizing documents including 2018 or 2019 tax returns or Form 990s, copy of official filing with the California Secretary of State, if applicable, or local municipality for the business such as one of the following: Articles of Incorporation, Certificate of Organization, Fictitious Name of Registration or Government-Issued Business License

6. Business must be able to provide acceptable form of government-issued photo ID

7. Applicants with multiple business entities, franchises, locations, etc. are not eligible for multiple grants and are only allowed to apply once using their eligible small business with the highest revenue

How will grant recipients be determined?

First, applications will be reviewed to determine whether the applicant meets the eligibility requirements. Eligible businesses will then be scored based on COVID-19 impact factors incorporated into the Program's priority criteria so that distribution can take into account priority key factors, including the following:

1. Geographic distribution based on COVID-19 health and safety restrictions following California's Blueprint for a Safer Economy and county status and the new Regional Stay At Home Order;

2. Industry sectors most impacted by the pandemic; and

3. Underserved small business groups served by the State supported network of small business centers (i.e., businesses majority owned and run on a daily basis by women, minorities/persons of color, veterans and businesses located in low-to-moderate income and rural communities).

Ineligible Businesses

1. Businesses without a physical location in California

2. Nonprofit businesses not registered as either a 501(c)(3), 501(c)(19), or 501(c)(6)

3. Government entities (other than Native American tribes) or elected official offices

4. Businesses primarily engaged in political or lobbying activities (regardless of whether such entities qualify as a 501(c)(3), 501(c)(19), or 501(c)(6))

5. Passive businesses, investment companies and investors who file a Schedule E on their personal tax returns

6. Churches and other religious institutions (regardless of whether such entities qualify as a 501(c)(3), 501(c)(19), or 501(c)(6))

7. Financial businesses primarily engaged in the business of lending, such as banks, finance companies and factoring companies

8. Businesses engaged in any activity that is illegal under federal, state or local law

9. Businesses of a prurient sexual nature, including businesses which present live performances of a prurient sexual nature and businesses which derive directly or indirectly more than de minimis gross revenue through the sale of products or services, or the presentation of any depictions or displays, of a prurient sexual nature

10. Businesses engaged in any socially undesirable activity or activity that may be considered predatory in nature such as rent-to-own businesses and check cashing businesses

11. Businesses that restrict patronage for any reason other than capacity

12. Speculative businesses

13. Businesses of which any owner of greater than 10% of the equity interest in it (i) has within the prior three-years been convicted of or had a civil judgment rendered against such owner, or has had commenced any form of parole or probation (including probation before judgment), for commission of fraud or a criminal offense in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public (federal, state or local) transaction or contract under a public transaction; violation of federal or state anti-trust or procurement statutes or commission of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property, or (ii) is presently indicted for or otherwise criminally or civilly charged by a government entity, (federal, state or local) with commission of any of the offenses enumerated in subparagraph (i) above

14. "Affiliated" companies (as such term is defined in 13 C.F.R. § 121.103)

15. Multiple business entities, franchises, locations, etc. are not eligible for multiple grants and are only allowed to apply once using their eligible small business with the highest revenue

Required Documents

Businesses will need the following items. (For step-by-step instruction of all information that will need to be provided in the application, please refer to the Application Instructions.)

Application Certification

Business financial information

Most recent tax return filed (2019 or 2018) – provided in an electronic form for online upload, such as PDF/JPEG or other approved upload format.

Copy of official filing with the California Secretary of State, if applicable, or local municipality for the business such as one of the following: Articles of Incorporation, Certificate of Organization, Fictitious Name of Registration or Government-Issued Business License

Government Issued Photo ID

Such as a Driver's License or Passport

Grant Amounts

The amount of grant funding ranges from \$5,000 to \$25,000. Businesses are eligible based on their annual revenue as documented in their most recent tax return:

Eligible Businesses Annual Revenue	Grant Amount Available per Business
\$1,000 to \$100,000	\$5,000
Greater than \$100,000 up to \$1,000,000	\$15,000
Greater than 1,000,000 up to \$2,500,000	\$25,000

If you are in need of help in filling out the application for this small business grant program, you can reach out to the Small Business Development Center at 562-938-5100 or visit

How will grant recipients be determined?

First, applications will be reviewed to determine whether the applicant meets the eligibility requirements. Eligible businesses will then be scored based on COVID-19 impact factors incorporated into the Program's priority criteria. The Program will prioritize distribution based on priority key factors, including the following:

- Geographic distribution based on COVID-19 health and safety restrictions following California's Blueprint for a Safer Economy, county status and the new Regional Stay At Home Order which can be found at <https://covid19.ca.gov/safer-economy/>

- Industry sectors most impacted by the pandemic

- Underserved small business groups served by the State supported network of small business centers (i.e., businesses majority owned and run on a daily basis by women, minorities/persons of color, veterans and businesses located in low-to-moderate income and rural communities)

What are the eligible costs for which I can use the grant funds?

Eligible costs are only those costs incurred due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the health and safety restrictions such as business interruptions or business closures incurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The following are the eligible uses of grant funds:

- All employee expenses including payroll costs, health care benefits, paid sick, medical, or family leave, and insurance premiums;

- Working capital, overhead (including rent, utilities, mortgage principal and interest payments (excluding mortgage prepayments)), debt payments (principal and interest) incurred before March 1, 2020;

- Costs associated with re-opening business operations after being fully or partially closed due to state-mandated COVID-19 health and safety restrictions and business closures;

- Costs associated with complying with COVID-19 federal, state or local guidelines for reopening with required safety protocols, including but not limited to equipment, plexiglass barriers, outdoor dining, PPE supplies, testing, and employee training expenses; or

- Any other COVID-19 related expenses not already covered through grants, forgivable loans or other relief through federal, state, county or city programs.

For additional details or FAQ's on this new grant, visit www.careliefgiant.com.

When can I get vaccinated?

California is distributing vaccines and the designated providers of the vaccines are following the state guidelines on when you can receive your vaccine. While supplies are limited healthcare workers, first responders and long term care residents are first in line to receive the vaccine. But you may be wondering where you fall in their planned approach?

California has a three phased approach to the vaccination schedule. In Phase 1A are healthcare workers and long term care residents. Phase 1B Tier One is for those that are 75 years and older, those that are at risk of exposure at work in the following sectors: education, childcare, emergency services, food and agriculture. The Phase 1B Tier Two are those that are 65 to 74 years of age, those at risk of exposure at work in transportation and logistics, industrial, commercial, residential, and sheltering facilities and services, additionally those who work in critical manufacturing. Lastly those in congregate settings with outbreak risk, incarcerated and homeless will be offered the vaccine. Then comes Phase 1C which includes those that are 50 to 64 years of age, those 16 to 64 years of age who have underlying health conditions or disabilities which increase their risk of severe COVID-19 and those at risk of exposure in the following sectors: water and wastewater, defense, energy, chemical and hazardous materials, communications and IT, financial services, government operation and community based essential functions.

So what if you do not fall under any of these categories? The State of California states that those residents will likely be able to get the vaccine sometime in spring 2021, but that is not set in stone. This will all depend on vaccine production and how quickly the vaccines become available. The good thing is that it will not cost you anything to get vaccinated. Another thing to note is that even if you have had COVID-19, you should still get the vaccine as there is not enough data to know just how long you are protected from getting COVID-19 again after you have had it.

You may have additional questions about the COVID-19 vaccine and you should speak to your health care provider to ask those questions. Making a decision on whether to get the vaccine or not is an individual choice, but with any medical decision you should get as much information as you can before making your decision. Visit www.covid19.ca.gov for more details on the vaccine.