

# DS Task Force Monthly Check-In

March 4, 2021

# Housekeeping



Interpretación en español: haga clic en el globo blanco en la parte inferior de la pantalla con la etiqueta "Interpretation." Luego haga clic en "Spanish" y seleccione "Mute original audio."



ASL interpreters have been "Spotlighted" and live closed captioning is active

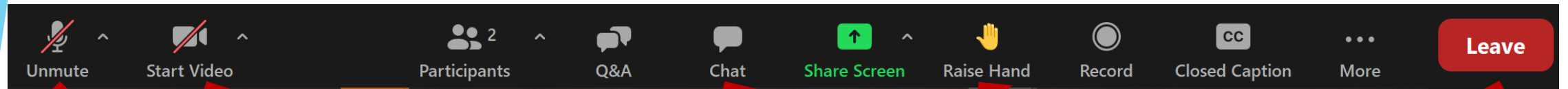


This meeting is being recorded



Materials are available at: <https://www.dds.ca.gov/initiatives/ds-task-force/>

# Zoom Tips



Unmute mic only when it's your turn to speak



Turn your webcam on/off

All attendees can type questions/comments in the Q&A

Chat is available for Task Force members only

Task Force members can raise your hand when you want to speak

Leave the webinar at the end of the meeting



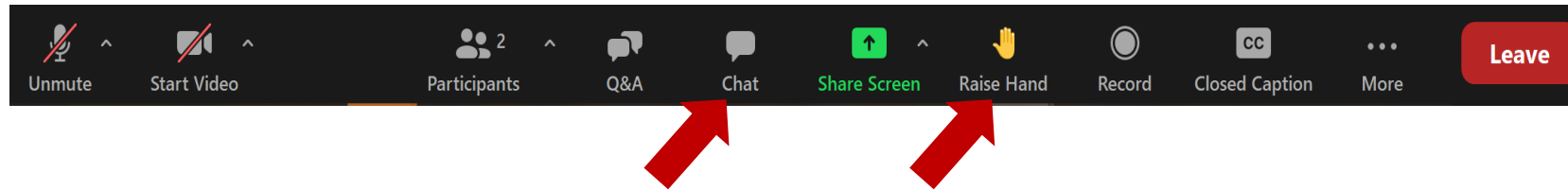
- For attendees, your video and microphone will not be available
- You will only see/hear DS Task Force members, DDS staff and presenters on screen



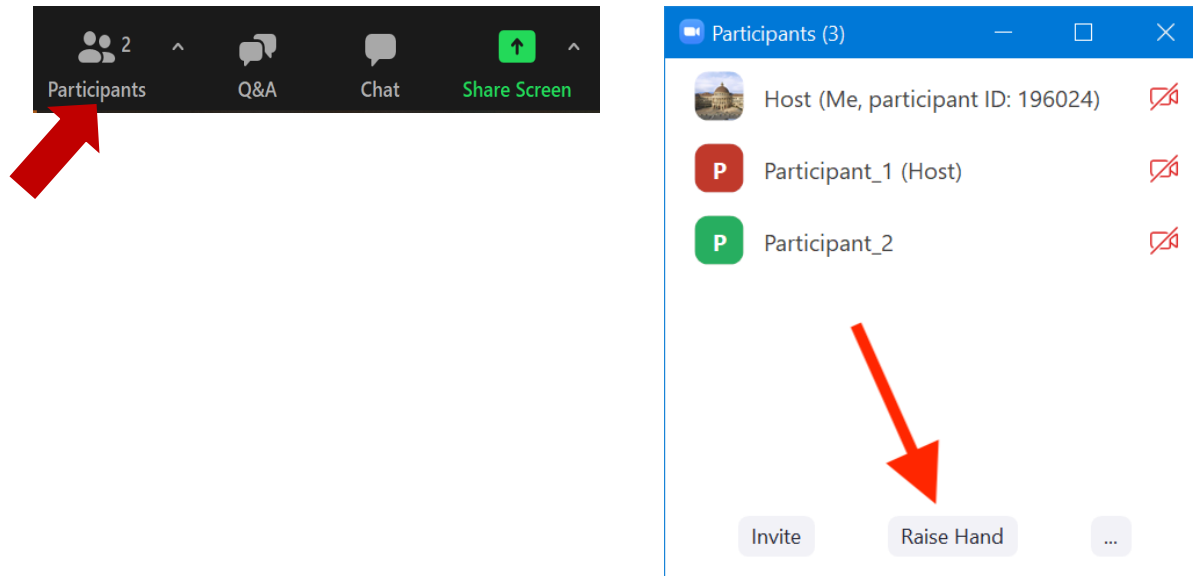
- Features will vary based on the version of Zoom and device you are using
- Some Zoom features are not available for telephone-only participants

# Providing Comments – DS Task Force Members

**DS Task Force Members:** Please use the “Chat” or “Raise Hand” to comment

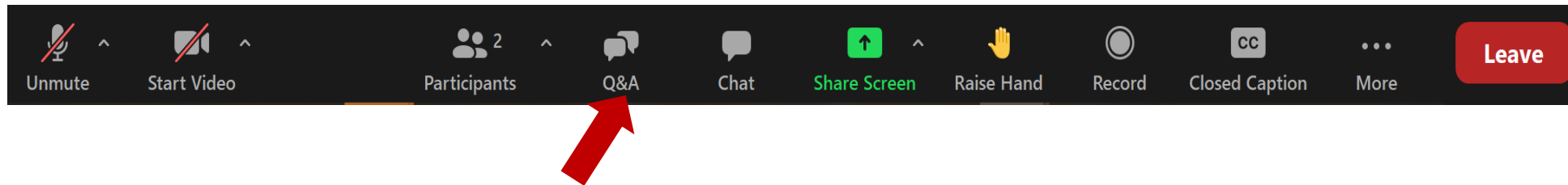


You may need to click on “Participants” and a new window will open where you can “Raise Hand”



# Providing Comments – Members of the Public

**For all attendees not on the DS Task Force (including Workgroup members):**  
Please use Zoom's Q&A function to comment



- Please let DDS staff respond to the Q&A – we are monitoring and will provide comments/answers live or written when we can



Submit written comment via email to [DSTaskForce@dds.ca.gov](mailto:DSTaskForce@dds.ca.gov)

# Agenda

## **Welcome**

## **DDS Updates**

- Directives
- Community Resources Workgroup Employment Conversation
- COVID-19 & Vaccine
- Self-Advocate & Family Survey

## **DS Task Force Member Discussion**

## **Public Comment**

## **Closing Comments**

# DDS Directives

**February 18, 2021:** [Extension of Waivers, Modifications and Directives Due to COVID-19](#)

**February 12, 2021:** [Contacting Consumers Regarding Eligibility for COVID-19 Vaccination](#)

**January 29, 2021:** [Contacting Consumers and Planning for COVID-19 Activities](#)

**January 27, 2021:** [Guidance Regarding Reporting Requirements for Alternative Nonresidential Services](#)

- Plain language, audio, ASL, Spanish, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Simplified Chinese and Traditional Chinese versions available on DDS website
- DDS continues to monitor and respond where directives or guidance are needed or extend existing directives

# Community Resources Workgroup Employment Conversation

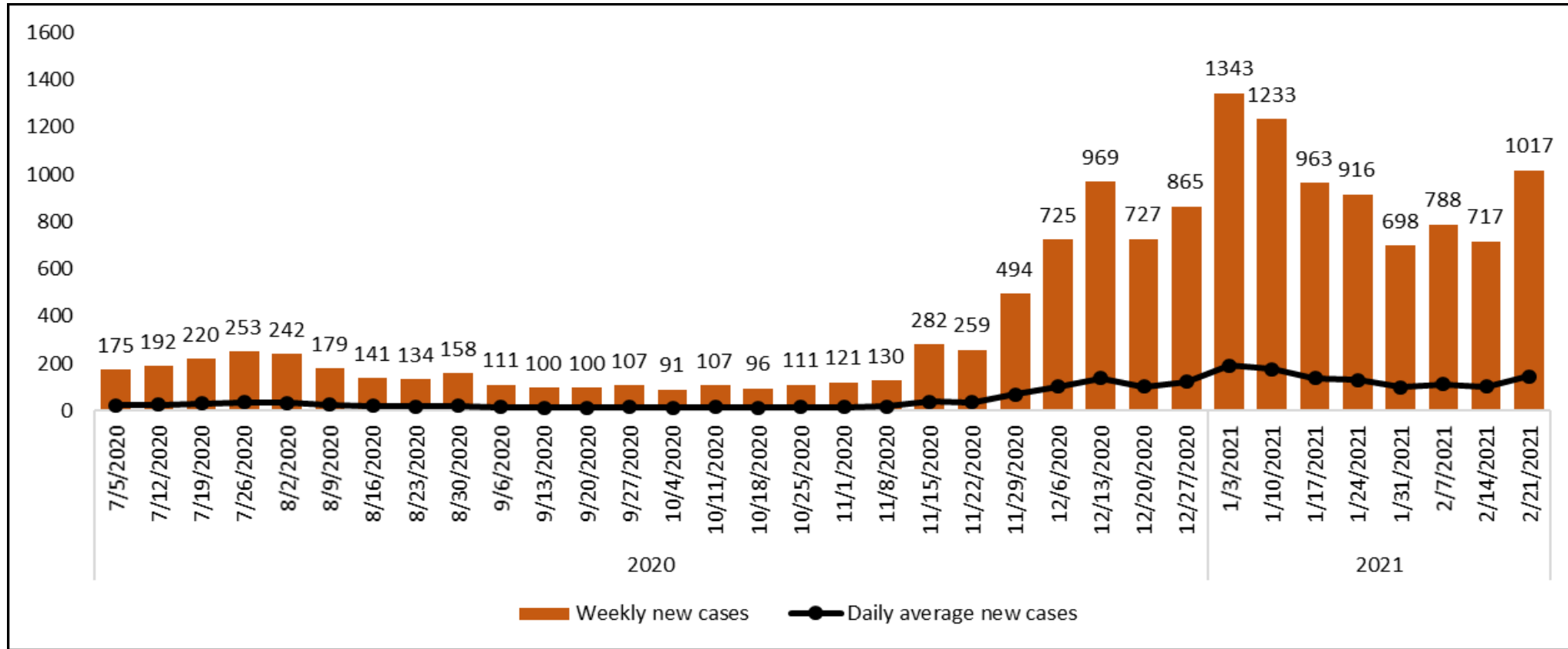
- Statewide collaborative discussion on February 22, 2021 with Department of Rehabilitation, State Council on Developmental Disabilities and Disability Rights California
- Strategies and recommendations to address employment barriers include:
  - Widespread education on employment options & the value added – Employers, families, self-advocates and service coordinators
  - Improved training & support for staff (employment provider and RC)
  - Identify opportunities for Direct Support Professionals to assist with employment supports
  - Paid Internship Program should be marketed/utilized as temp-to-hire
  - Develop customized employment services
  - Start employment discussions at a younger age and increase employment discussion in the IEP
  - Increased training and support for Self-Advocates and families to better understand work incentive programs related to benefits

**Next Steps:** Focused, small group discussions to address short-term actions and longer-term policies



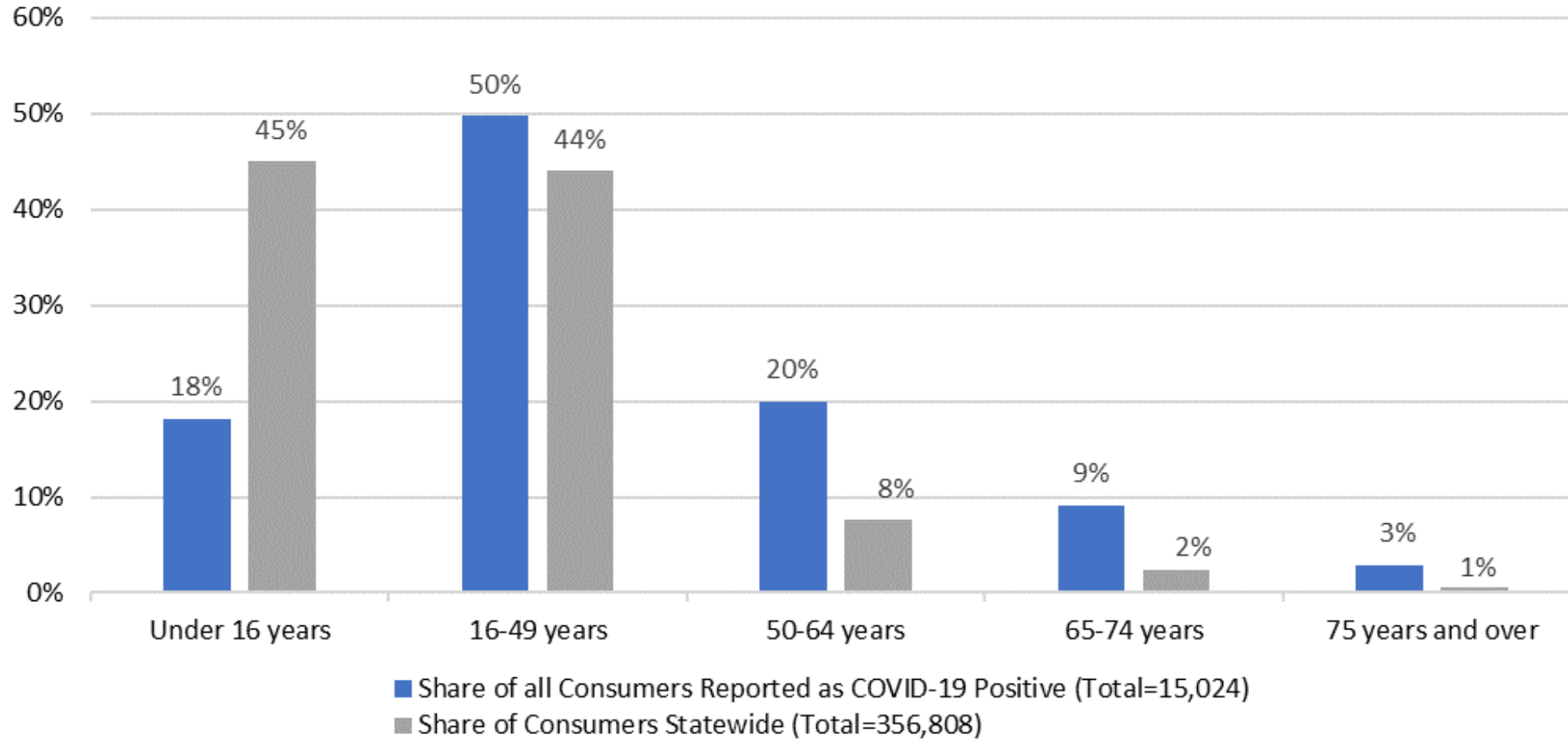
# COVID-19 & Vaccine Updates

# Statewide COVID-19 Update (July 2020 – February 2021)



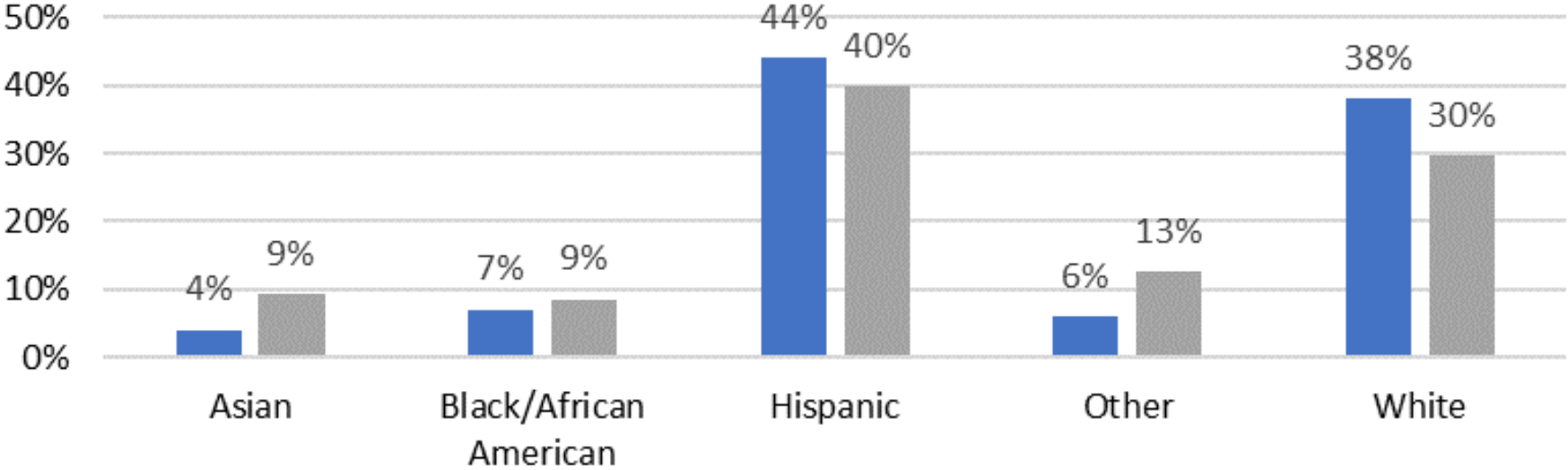
Note. Weekly data reflects regional center reports as of 2/27/21; weeks start on Sunday.

## Number of Consumers Reported as COVID-19 Positive by Age Group



Data as of 2/23/21

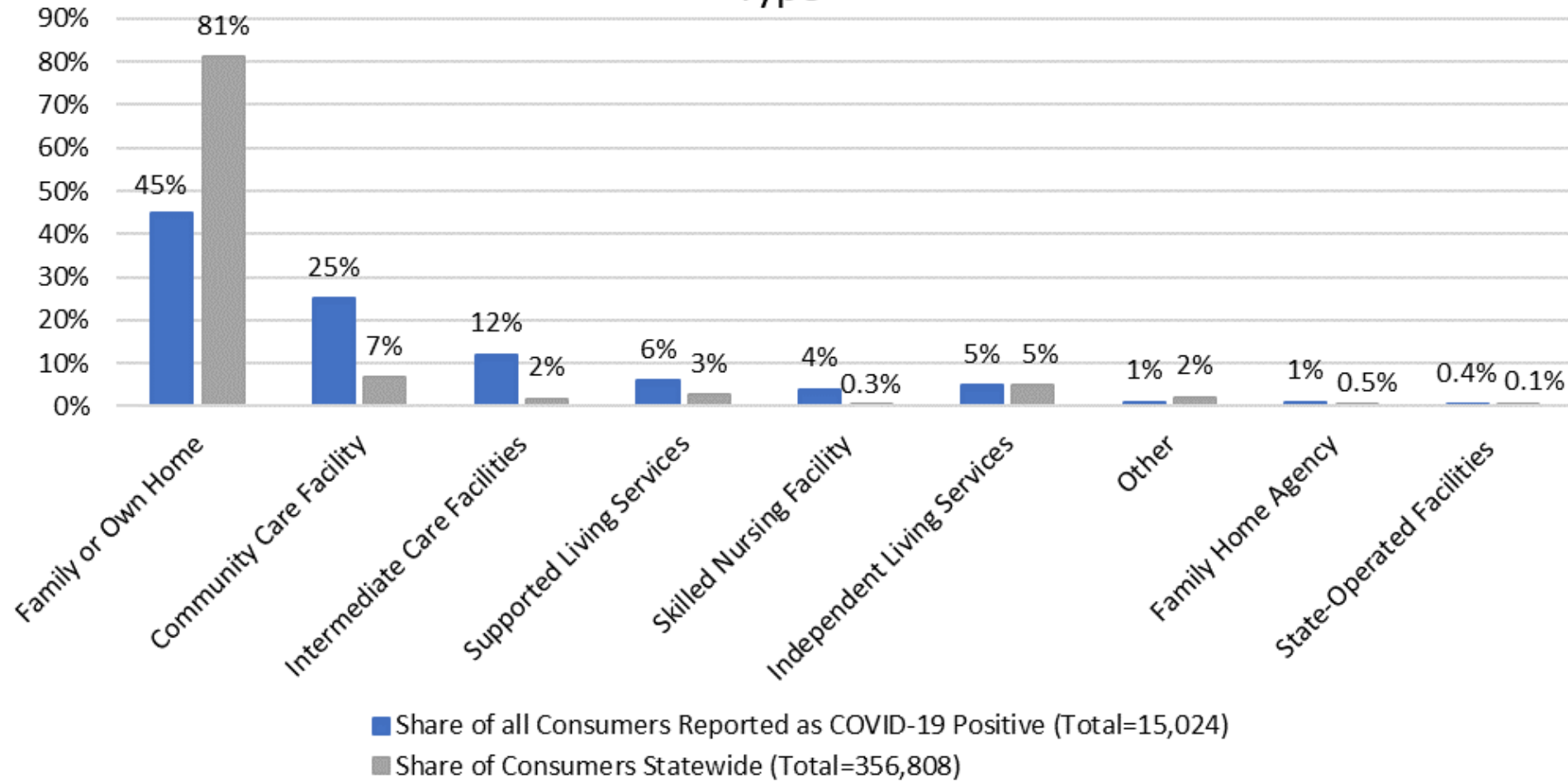
# Number of Consumers Reported as COVID-19 Positive by Ethnicity



■ Share of all Consumers Reported as COVID-19 Positive (Total=15,024)

■ Share of Consumers Statewide (Total=356,808)

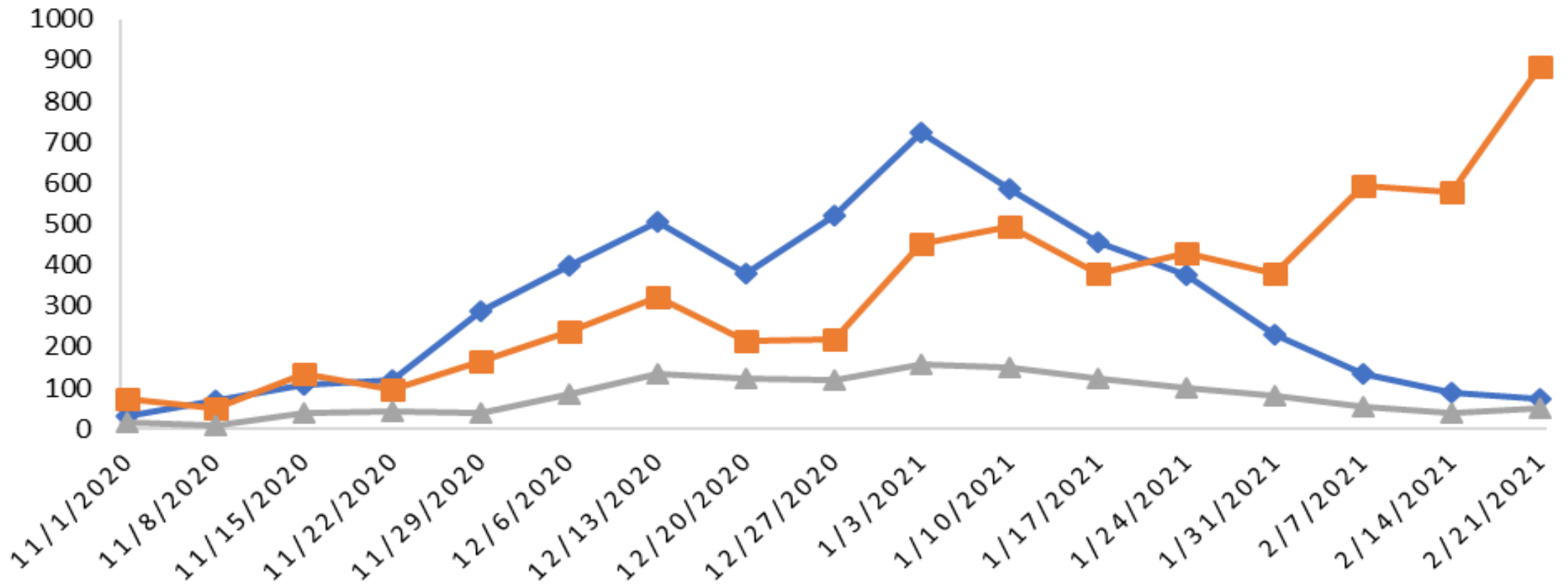
## Number of Consumers Reported as COVID-19 Positive by Residence Type



Data as of 2/23/21

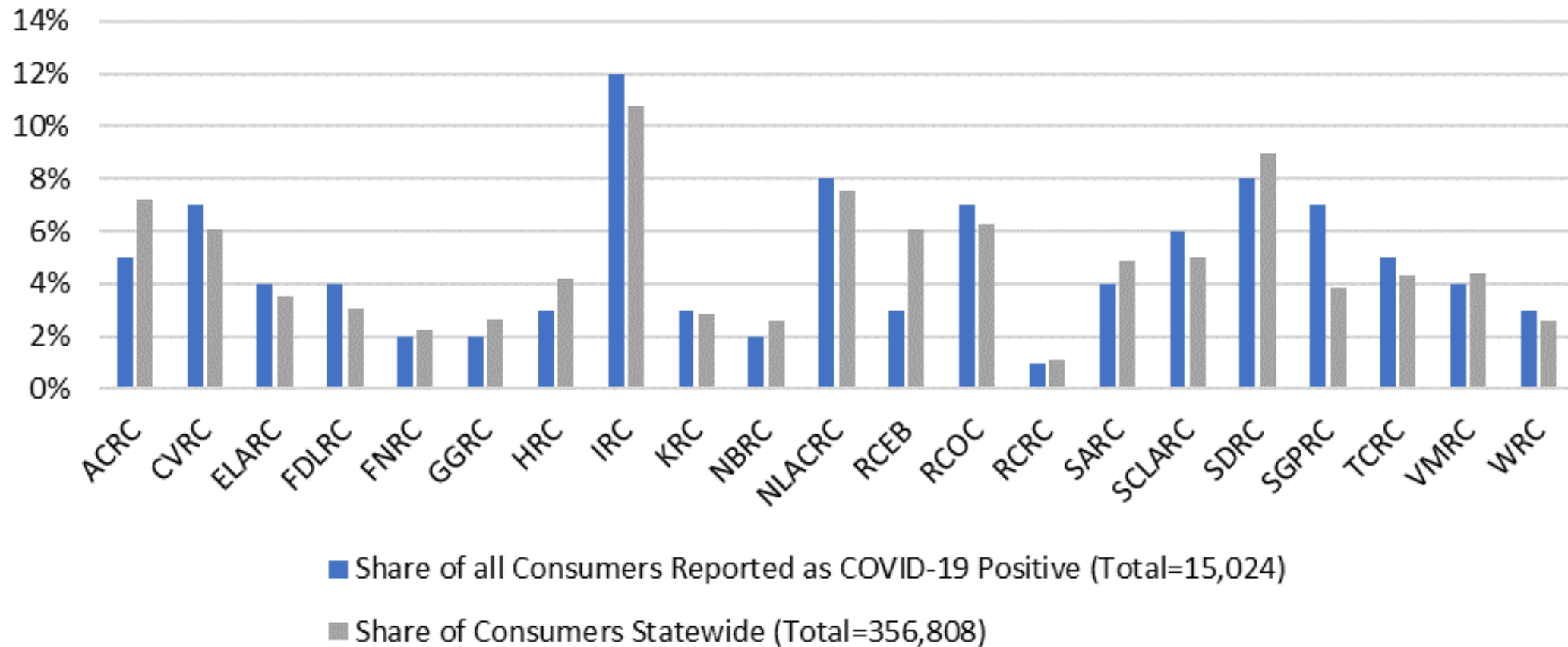
# WEEKLY NEW CASES OF C19+ CONSUMERS, BY RESIDENCE TYPE

◆ Licensed facilities    ■ Family    ▲ Own home/ILS/SLS



Data as of 2/27/21

## Number of Consumers Reported as COVID-19 Positive by Regional Center



Data as of 2/23/21

# Vaccine Implementation Group for High-Risk Medical & Severe Disability

- Lead by California Health and Human Services Agency & California Government Operations Agency
- Participants include leadership from a variety of state agencies and organizations
- Engage providers and stakeholders to ensure Californians with high-risk, severe chronic conditions, severe developmental or other severe disabilities are vaccinated
- Recommendations for points of distribution, registration, notification, verification, accessible sites, education, outreach and more





# Directives

- Jan 29 Directive

- Contact all families and consumers, on a recurring basis
- Maintain contact when people are hospitalized
- Have a plan for COVID-19 cases and vaccinations; submit to DDS within 30 days

“The plan should be brief and must address how the regional center will work with consumers, families, service providers and local entities in these efforts, with particular focus on communication to consumers, families and providers regarding plan implementation... Individual regional centers may propose or request additional items that would provide relief to that regional center to assist in available resources to comply with this Directive.”

February 12: Assist the 10,300 consumers age 65+

March 15: Eligibility begins for others, as specified

# Vaccination

## Letters Clarifying COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility

- Define certain service providers, regional center employees, and family member caregivers of regional center consumers as priority for Phase 1A.
- March 15: Will need personalized letter documenting status as a regional center consumer.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- Posted on the DDS website---will be updated next week, in multiple languages
- Addressing questions received about the vaccines
- Please send problems and good examples our way, thanks!

## Contacting Consumers Too

- Contact individuals and families about their health status, available COVID-19 testing, vaccination information, assistance, and other resources
- Ages 65+ directive was issued Feb 12
- Directive for ages 16-64 forthcoming this week, for March 15 groups.

# Resources

The usual websites:

- <https://www.dds.ca.gov/corona-virus-information-and-resources/>
- [COVID19.CA.GOV](https://covid19.ca.gov) and <https://covid19.ca.gov/vaccines/>

And if a government site is NOT a trusted messenger:

- The <https://www.adcouncil.org/> has created its largest-ever campaign. The material and videos can be downloaded from this site.
- The actual campaign is found on <https://getvaccineanswers.org/>. It is in multiple languages, including the videos.

# Community Vaccine Advisory Committee

Aaron Carruthers, State Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Next public meeting: March 5, 12-2 pm

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/Community-Vaccine-Advisory-Committee.aspx>

# Self-Advocate & Family Survey

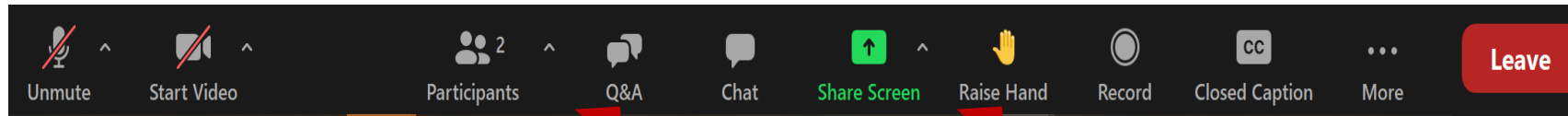
- **Participants:** 9,064 self-advocates, family members, legal guardians, provider staff and other community members.
- **Survey Access:** online, via SurveyMonkey through computers and smart phones; links distributed through DDS email lists and community-based organizations.
- **Available Languages:** Arabic, Armenian, Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), English, Korean, Persian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese.
- **Development:** Content and wording were selected in partnership with stakeholders and community representatives.
- **Purpose:**
  - Help the Department understand how COVID-19 has impacted our communities and changed families' experiences of services.
  - Inform DDS, regional centers and service providers about new ways to safely support families and help identify what's working, what's not working, and what is important to self-advocates and families.
- **Updates:** Summary Report and Online Data Dashboard in development

# DS Task Force Member Discussion

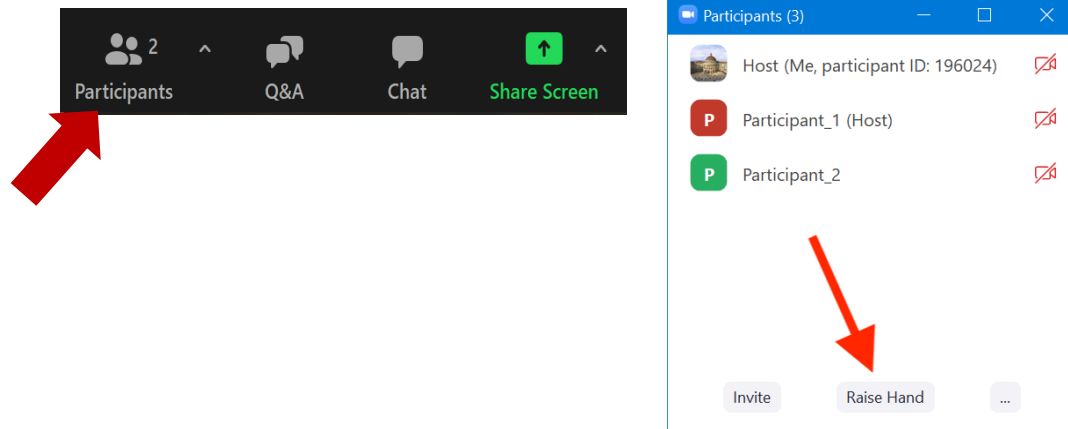
- COVID-19 Data & Vaccine questions and comments
- Feedback to Self-Advocate & Family survey results and dashboard
- Additional comments and feedback

# Public Comment

- Time permitting: a limit of 2 minutes for each individual
- Please use “raise hand” if you want to speak and we will unmute your line



OR



- Written comments can be emailed to [DSTaskForce@dds.ca.gov](mailto:DSTaskForce@dds.ca.gov) or please use the Q&A feature