



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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Public Health Division

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

To: Santa Cruz County Healthcare Providers
From: Gail Newel, MD, MPH, County Health Officer
Subject: UPDATE on COVID-19 Boosters
Date: September 8, 2022

Situational Update:

Following recent approval by the FDA and CDC, the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup recommends either the Pfizer or Moderna bivalent mRNA booster to be given at least 2 months after the primary series or the last booster dose. The Moderna bivalent mRNA vaccine is authorized for use as a single booster dose in individuals 18 years of age and older and the Pfizer bivalent mRNA booster is authorized for use as a single booster dose in individuals 12 years of age and older. The bivalent mRNA vaccines provide superior, up to date, protection against the original strain of SARS-CoV-2 and the current circulating omicron variants BA.4 and BA.5.

On September 6th, 3 deaths were added to the Santa Cruz County COVID-19 Dashboard. All three were white females, two in their 90s and one in her mid-60s. Two hadn't received any COVID -19 vaccinations, which included the woman in her 60s. The other woman hadn't received her second booster. In anticipation of influenza, SARS-CoV-2, and MPX circulating in our community, getting vaccinated when eligible is important for prevention of severe disease, which may lead to hospitalization and death. There are specific patient safety recommendations when administering multiple vaccines for healthcare providers.

ACTIONS REQUESTED OF HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS

COVID 19 Bivalent mRNA Boosters: Healthcare providers should now provide the new bivalent mRNA formulation, or the "updated booster", as a booster dose for those eligible instead of the previous monovalent mRNA booster. For protection against SARs-CoV-2, [The Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\)](#) no longer authorizes the monovalent mRNA booster for individuals 12 and older.

- [CDPH Bivalent mRNA Booster Eligibility](#)
 - o For individuals 12+ to receive bivalent mRNA booster or "updated booster".
 - If a monovalent booster is provided to an individual 12+, [a VAERs report is required](#).
 - Providers are encouraged to review the [Vaccine Product Guide](#) to reduce administration errors.

- For individuals 5-11, booster guidance continues to recommend receiving the monovalent mRNA booster.

Bivalent boosters are beginning to ship the week of 9/6/22. Confirm with your healthcare organization that vaccine has been ordered or visit [myCAvax](#) to order.

Co-Administration: When considering offering multiple vaccines to a patient for MPX, Influenza, and/or COVID-19, the [Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) offers considerations](#) for clinical administration with patient safety in mind:

COVID-19 vaccines may be administered without regard to timing of other vaccines. This includes simultaneous administration of COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines on the same day (including the flu vaccine). However, there are additional considerations if administering an orthopoxvirus (i.e. Jynneos) vaccine:

- If an [orthopoxvirus vaccine is recommended](#) for prophylaxis in the setting of an orthopoxvirus (e.g., monkeypox) outbreak, orthopoxvirus vaccination should not be delayed because of recent receipt of a Moderna, Novavax, or Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine; no minimum interval between COVID-19 vaccination with these vaccines and orthopoxvirus vaccination is necessary.
- People, particularly adolescent or young adult males, might consider waiting 4 weeks after orthopoxvirus vaccination (either JYNNEOS or ACAM2000) before receiving a Moderna, Novavax, or Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine because of the observed risk for myocarditis and pericarditis after receipt of ACAM2000 orthopoxvirus vaccine and mRNA (i.e., Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech) and Novavax COVID-19 vaccines and the unknown risk for myocarditis and pericarditis after JYNNEOS.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Clinical Guidance for COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC](#)
- [Clinical Guidance for MPX Vaccination | CDC](#)
- [EZIZ COVID-19 Vaccine Clinical Resources](#)
- [EZIZ MPX Vaccine Clinical Resources](#)
- [CDPH COVID-19 Vaccine Timing Guide](#)
- [ACIP - Interim Clinical Considerations for COVID-19 Vaccines: Bivalent Boosters](#)

Health Alert: *conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.*

Health Advisory: *provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.*

Health Update: *provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.*