



Health Advisory: COVID-19 Vaccination Updates

August 6, 2021

SITUATIONAL UPDATE

The COVID-19 delta variant is spreading in San Francisco and the Bay Area. Unvaccinated persons are at much [higher risk of hospitalization](#) with severe COVID-19. Vaccination is safe, effective, and still the best protection against developing severe COVID-19.

As a result of all your dedication and efforts, SF has made [excellent progress in vaccinating its residents](#). Still, over 20% of eligible SF residents ages 12 and up remain to be vaccinated.

COMPLETION OF mRNA VACCINE SERIES PER CDC GUIDANCE

SFDPH aligns with US Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance on [COVID-19 vaccine administration](#) and [Interchangeability of COVID-19 vaccine products](#). Key points are that:

- Patients should complete both doses of the 2-dose mRNA vaccine series.
- 2nd doses should be administered as close to the recommended interval as possible, but no earlier than 4 days before the recommended date. **There is no maximum interval.** Delayed 2nd doses should be completed as soon as possible but are considered valid at any time after the recommended date.
- The mRNA vaccines are **not interchangeable**. For patients who have started a 2-dose mRNA vaccine series, every effort should be made to determine which vaccine product was received as the 1st dose and to complete the series with the same product.
- In **exceptional situations** in which the mRNA product for the 1st dose cannot be determined or is no longer available, the series may be completed with any available mRNA vaccine product at a minimum interval of 28 days between doses. In **limited, exceptional situations** where the patient is unable to complete the series with an mRNA vaccine (e.g., due to contraindication), a single dose of the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine may be considered at a minimum of 28 days from the mRNA vaccine dose.



Actions Requested of SF Vaccine Providers:

1. **Adhere** to the guidance above.
2. **[Strongly preferred] Carry both mRNA vaccine products** (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna) so that patients do not have to miss a vaccination opportunity and can readily receive a 2nd dose with the same product. The potential inconvenience of carrying both products does not constitute an exceptional situation that allows providers to routinely administer un-matched mRNA series. Approved myCAVax providers can request SFDPH assistance with small orders or supply challenges; please email CCC-Distribution@sfdph.org
3. **Otherwise, unless the situation is exceptional, direct** patients needing a 2nd dose to a vaccination site that can administer the same mRNA product as their first dose (see <https://sf.gov/vaccine-sites>). If a patient indicates that they are unwilling or unable to navigate to another site during the interim period while your practice is in the process of obtaining both mRNA vaccine products, it would be acceptable to employ shared decision-making with such patients to determine the best course of action to avoid missing a vaccination opportunity.

mRNA VACCINE SUPPLEMENTAL DOSE IN J&J VACCINE RECIPIENTS

SFDPH aligns with [\(CDC\) guidance](#) which states that the need for and timing of COVID-19 booster doses have not been established and are not recommended at this time.

SFDPH has begun to accommodate special requests from persons who previously received a dose of Janssen (Johnson & Johnson; J&J) vaccine, and who wish to receive a single supplemental dose with an mRNA vaccine product after consultation with a health care provider (HCP).

This is an accommodation that is expected to be of interest to a small minority of J&J vaccinees and it is not a recommendation or guidance for J&J vaccinees in general. SFDPH has full confidence in all three FDA-authorized vaccines, which are proving to be extraordinarily effective in preventing COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths.

The accommodation is available at SFDPH-operated vaccination sites. Non-SFDPH providers have no obligation to follow suit.

Eligibility is limited to SF residents and those who can show proof that they were vaccinated in San Francisco. Persons fully vaccinated with an mRNA vaccine are not eligible. Individuals



who want to pursue this supplemental dose after receiving the J&J vaccine should consult with a HCP before scheduling an appointment for a supplemental dose and will need to self-attest that they have consulted with a HCP before the dose is administered.

PRIORITIZING VACCINATION OPPORTUNITIES

SFDPH aligns with the California Department of Public Health ([CDPH](#)) [guidance](#) that providers may puncture a multidose vial to administer COVID-19 vaccine even if there are not enough patients available to use all doses in the vial. Providers should still take steps to minimize wastage and use doses efficiently, however priority should be given to vaccinating eligible individuals even if this may result in leftover doses at the end of the day. All wasted, expired, or redistributed doses should continue to be reported in myCAVax for tracking purposes at <https://mycavax.cdph.ca.gov/>

APPLICATIONS STILL OPEN FOR CALVAX GRANT FUNDS

August 13 is the deadline to apply at <https://www.phcdocs.org/Programs/CalVaxGrant>. Independent pharmacies and medical practices with <200 physicians are eligible to receive up to \$55,000 to support COVID-19 vaccination efforts. Expenses incurred from 11/2020-11/2021 are reimbursable. Application assistance is available; email: CCC-Distribution@sfdph.org

Additional Resources

SF Dashboard <https://sf.gov/data/covid-19-vaccinations>

CDPH Program Info <https://eziz.org/covid/>

CDC COVID Vaccination Guidance

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html>

FDA COVID vaccine site

<https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/covid-19-vaccines>