



Health Update:

Booster Doses for COVID-19 Vaccine Recipients

November 2, 2021 (updated 11/5/21)

FDA Recent Action

([10/20/21](#)) FDA authorized a single COVID-19 booster dose in eligible persons who have completed a primary vaccine series (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or J&J [Johnson & Johnson; Janssen]). The updated authorizations allow for “mix and match” of products, so that individuals may receive their booster dose with the same (homologous) or a different (heterologous) COVID-19 vaccine than was given for their primary series.

Dosing

- Moderna: full dose for all primary/additional doses; half dose (50 mcg) for all boosters.
- Pfizer-BioNTech: full dose for all primary/additional and booster doses.
- J&J: full dose for all primary and booster doses.

CDC and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Recent Action

([10/21/21](#)) CDC endorsed recommendations by its own advisory panel (ACIP) to expand booster shot eligibility to Moderna and J&J vaccinees, in line with the FDA authorizations.

([10/22/21](#)) CDPH concurred with CDC.

([10/25/21](#)) CDC updated COVID-19 vaccination guidance to clarify key points:

Recipients of an mRNA primary series (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna)

These recipients of an **mRNA** primary series **should** receive a single COVID-19 booster dose (with any of the available products) at least **6 months** after completing the primary series:

- People aged 65 years and older
- Residents 18 years and older in [long-term care settings](#)
- People aged 50-64 years with [certain underlying medical and mental health conditions](#), including persons at risk for social inequities due to race, ethnicity, or disability

These recipients of an **mRNA** primary series **may** receive a single COVID-19 booster dose (with any of the available products) at least **6 months** after completing the primary series:



- People aged 18-49 years with [certain underlying medical and mental health conditions](#), including persons at risk for social inequities due to race, ethnicity, or disability
- People aged 18-64 years at increased risk for SARS-CoV-2 exposure because of [occupational or institutional setting](#).

Recipients of a J&J primary dose

All persons aged ≥ 18 years who received a single-dose **J&J** Primary series **should** receive a single COVID-19 booster dose (with any of the available products) at least **2 months** after completing their J&J primary dose.

Selection of a COVID-19 vaccine product for the booster dose

Per CDC and CDPH guidance, **any** of the available COVID-19 vaccine products can be used for booster vaccination, regardless of the product used for primary vaccination. Neither FDA, CDC, nor CDPH expressed a preference for any specific product based on the person's primary COVID-19 vaccine series, host factors, or effectiveness of the booster product.

Instead, CDC suggests that persons seeking booster vaccination discuss with their healthcare provider which product is most appropriate for them. [Considerations include](#):

- Immunogenicity (heterologous boosters elicited similar or higher serologic responses as compared to homologous boosters)
- Risk of rare but serious adverse outcomes (for example, risk of myocarditis-pericarditis is highest in males aged <30 years who received an mRNA product, while risk of thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome is highest in females aged 18-49 years who received a dose of J&J vaccine).

See SFDPH [guidance on booster product selection](#).

When a heterologous booster product is administered, the eligible population and dosing intervals are those of the vaccine used for primary vaccination. (So, for example, a healthy, 18-year-old recipient of a primary J&J dose, who selects an mRNA product for a booster, should receive the mRNA booster at least 2 months after getting the J&J vaccine).

Persons with moderate to severe immune compromise

[Recommendations](#) depend on the primary COVID-19 vaccine product:

- Those who received an mRNA primary series are recommended to get a 3rd primary ("additional") dose with an mRNA product at least 28 days following completion of the



primary series. These persons will also become eligible for a single booster dose 6 months after their additional dose, for a total of 4 doses (3 primary + 1 booster).

- Those who received a primary J&J dose are recommended to receive a single booster dose with any available COVID-19 vaccine product, for a total of 2 doses (1 primary + 1 booster). In the future, further doses may be considered for this vulnerable sub-population.

SFDPH Perspective

SFDPH continues to provide primary COVID-19 vaccine series for unvaccinated SF residents and additional mRNA product doses to mRNA primary series recipients with moderate-to-severe immune compromise. SFDPH is now expanding the delivery of booster doses per CDC and CDPH recommendations, while preparing for the upcoming rollout of Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to children ages 5-11 years.

Sunsetting of the Supplemental Dose Accommodation

Recipients of a primary J&J dose are now able to receive an authorized booster vaccine with the product of their choice, thereby allowing SFDPH to sunset the “supplemental” mRNA dose accommodation (see [SFDPH health advisory 8/18/21](#)).

Persons who have already received a supplemental mRNA dose should be considered to have completed their booster dose, even if the supplemental dose was given earlier than 2 months after the primary dose (see [CDC guidance](#); boosters given earlier do not need to be repeated).

Booster Product Selection for Recipients of a Primary J&J Dose

Preliminary analysis of mix-and-match NIH [data reviewed by FDA and CDC](#) suggests that recipients of a primary J&J dose may achieve a stronger serologic immune response with a heterologous mRNA booster dose than with a second J&J dose, and that this approach also appeared to be safe. Therefore, at SFDPH-operated sites, where feasible, an mRNA vaccine will be the first product offered to recipients of a primary J&J dose who are seeking a booster; vaccinees may still select a J&J booster (where available). We will continue to monitor emerging data and guidelines and adjust operations, accordingly.

To reduce barriers to vaccination, patients presenting to SFDPH-operated sites may self-attest to eligibility for a booster dose. Local vaccine supply is robust, and [booster doses are available](#) through health systems, clinics, and pharmacies across SF on a walk-in or appointment basis.

Additional Information

Timing of TB Testing or Flu Vaccination with Respect to COVID-19 Vaccination



COVID-19 vaccine may be administered without regard to timing of other vaccines, including flu vaccine. This includes simultaneous administration of COVID-19 vaccine with flu vaccine or other vaccines on the same day. If multiple vaccines are administered at a single visit, administer each injection at a different injection site (separated by at least 1 inch, or administered in different limbs if possible).

COVID-19 vaccination should not be delayed because of testing for TB infection. TB skin tests and interferon-gamma release assays (IGRA) can now be done at any time before, after, or during the same encounter as COVID-19 vaccination (see [CDC guidance](#)).

CALVAX Grant Funding for Becoming a COVID-19 Vaccine Provider

The application cycle for CALVAX grant funding has been extended to December 17, 2021 and eligibility has been extended to home health agencies and skilled nursing facilities. Medical practices of up to 200 physicians, independent pharmacy organizations, student health centers, university health centers, K-12 schools are still eligible to apply for funding.

See <https://www.phcdocs.org/Programs/CalVaxGrant>. Up to \$55,000 in support can be requested. Application assistance is available; email: CCC-Distribution@sfdph.org

Additional Resources

CDC [COVID Vaccination Guidance for Clinicians](#)

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

FDA [COVID vaccine site](#)

SF.gov Vaccination Resources <https://sf.gov/get-vaccinated-against-covid-19>

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

SFDPH [COVID vaccine page for SF providers](#)