



# Health Update:

## COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Dose Update

January 13, 2022

### Recent Action

FDA and CDC have expanded eligibility for COVID-19 vaccination, instituting changes which are designed to prevent serious outcomes of COVID-19 including severe disease, hospitalization, and death due to SARS-CoV-2 infection, including infection with the Omicron variant. (See announcements [FDA-1/3](#), [FDA-1/7](#), [CDC-1/4](#), [CDC-1/5](#), [adoption by CDPH-1/7](#) )

- Eligibility for boosters now includes everyone age 12+ years, and the timing is shortened to 5 months following completion of a primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series.
- Eligibility for an additional primary series dose includes persons with [moderate-to-severe immune compromise](#) who are age 5+ years

In addition, we describe a local accommodation by the San Francisco Department of Public Health to allow a third dose of COVID-19 vaccine for primary recipients of the Johnson & Johnson (“J&J”) vaccine.

As of this date, over 62% of vaccinated SF residents age 16 years and older have received a COVID-19 booster dose. See <https://sf.gov/data/covid-19-vaccine-boosters> for data updates.

### Booster Eligibility, Timing, Product, and Dosage

A [COVID-19 vaccine booster dose is recommended by CDC for everyone aged 12 years and older](#).

Timing, regardless of age, is at least 5 months after completing a 2-dose mRNA vaccine primary series, or at least 2 months after completing a J&J vaccine primary dose.

For adults receiving a booster dose, an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (**Moderna half-dose**/50 mcg/0.25 mL or **Pfizer full dose**/30 mcg/0.3 mL) is preferred over the J&J COVID-19 vaccine (0.5 mL) in most situations.

For persons aged 12 through 17 years, only the Pfizer product is authorized for booster use (gray- or purple-top vial; 30 mcg dose).



For those aged 5 through 11 years, COVID-19 primary series vaccination is recommended with Pfizer vaccine only (orange-top vial; 10 mcg dose), however booster doses are not yet authorized for children younger than age 12.

CDC has also published [booster dose guidance for those who received COVID-19 vaccine\(s\) outside the U.S.](#)

### **“Additional” Primary Series Dose Eligibility, Timing, Product, and Dosage**

A [COVID-19 vaccine \*\*additional\*\* primary series dose \(3<sup>rd</sup> dose\) is recommended by CDC for persons aged 5 years and older with moderate-to-severe immune compromise.](#)

Timing, regardless of age, is 28 days after completion of the 2-dose primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series.

For adults receiving an additional dose, an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (**Moderna full-dose**/100 mcg/0.5 mL or **Pfizer full dose**/30 mcg/0.3 mL) is preferred over the J&J COVID-19 vaccine (0.5 mL) in most situations.

For persons aged 12 through 17 years, only the 30-mcg dose of Pfizer product (gray- or purple-top vial), is authorized for use as the additional primary series dose, and for persons aged 5 through 11 years, only the 10-mcg dose of Pfizer product (orange-top vial) may be administered as the additional dose.

Persons aged 12 years and older who complete the additional primary series dose become eligible for a booster dose (4<sup>th</sup> dose) 5 months later. Booster doses are not yet authorized for children younger than age 12.

### **SFDPH Third Dose Accommodation for Recipients of a J&J Vaccine Primary Dose**

Recent studies (cited below) show that for immune competent adults, receipt of a 3<sup>rd</sup> COVID-19 vaccine dose is needed in order to: (a) induce adequate antibody titers as immunity wanes several months following the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose; and (b) effectively reduce symptomatic infection, hospitalization, and severe outcomes with the Omicron variant. Although this research has so far focused on persons who received a primary series with non-J&J vaccines, we believe that similar studies in persons whose primary series was a single J&J vaccine dose would yield similar results showing that 3 doses are needed for optimal protection.

Per current CDC guidance, immune competent adults who received a J&J vaccine primary dose are eligible for just a single booster, for a maximum of 2 COVID-19 vaccine doses. (Those same persons, had they received a primary mRNA 2-dose series instead, would be eligible for a maximum of 3 COVID-19 vaccine doses; 2 primary + 1 booster).



For these reasons, SFDPH-operated vaccination sites will accommodate off-label requests for a **3<sup>rd</sup> dose** with Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, from persons age 18 years and older who have completed a J&J primary vaccine dose plus a single booster or [supplemental](#) dose.

- Timing is at least 5 months after the booster or supplemental dose (2<sup>nd</sup> dose).
- For this accommodation SFDPH will utilize Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine as it has full [FDA-approval for prevention of COVID-19 disease in adults](#). FDA approval of the vaccine provides leeway for off-label prescribing, in contrast to FDA emergency authorization.
- Eligibility is limited to SF residents and to non-SF residents who received their primary J&J dose in San Francisco. In addition, those who wish to receive this 3<sup>rd</sup> dose should consult with an HCP before scheduling an appointment for their 3<sup>rd</sup> dose and will need to self-attest that they have consulted with an HCP before the dose is administered.

Non-SFDPH-operated vaccination providers in San Francisco are encouraged to adopt this 3<sup>rd</sup> dose accommodation as well.

Finally, SFDPH encourages all SF vaccination providers to continue their diligent outreach and effort to ensure that all primary J&J COVID-19 vaccinees receive their booster (2<sup>nd</sup> dose) and that all primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccinees receive their booster (3<sup>rd</sup> dose) as well.

### **Citations**

Barda et al. <https://www.thelancet.com/action/showPdf?pii=S0140-6736%2821%2902249-2>

Behrens et al. <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.12.25.21268392v1>

Buchan et al. <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.12.30.21268565v1>

Doria-Rose et al. <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.12.15.21267805v2>

Ferguson et al. <https://www.imperial.ac.uk/media/imperial-college/medicine/mrc-gida/2021-12-16-COVID19-report-49.pdf>

### **Additional Resources**

CDC [COVID Vaccination Guidance for Clinicians](#)

CDPH Program Info <https://eziz.org/covid/> and [guidance on COVID vaccine eligibility](#)

FDA [COVID vaccine site](#)



**POPULATION HEALTH DIVISION**  
SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



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](#)