



Health Update:

2nd Boosters of COVID-19 Vaccine

April 5, 2022 *

Recent Action

[FDA has authorized](#) and [CDC has announced](#) expanded eligibility for COVID-19 vaccination to include 2nd booster doses for higher risk populations, and the [Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup](#) has endorsed this expansion. The following persons are now eligible for a 2nd booster dose with an mRNA vaccine (either Pfizer or Moderna) starting 4 months after receipt of their 1st booster:

- persons aged 50 years and up
- persons aged 12 years and up who have [moderate to severe immune compromise](#)
- persons initially given a Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine whose 1st booster was also a J&J vaccine

Note that persons aged 18+ may receive either the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine as a booster, but only Pfizer is currently approved for persons aged 12-17. CDC has updated its [COVID-19 vaccine schedules](#) to incorporate the new eligibility guidance.

SFDPH Perspective

The San Francisco Department of Public Health aligns with this most recent eligibility expansion for individuals aged ≥ 50 years and those with moderate to severe immune compromise who are aged ≥ 12 years.

Obtaining a 2nd booster dose is expected to provide the most benefit for persons at higher risk of severe complications of COVID-19. SFDPH therefore recommends a 2nd booster dose for people aged ≥ 65 years and encourages a 2nd booster dose for people aged ≥ 50 years who have [underlying conditions that increase risk of severe illness](#) and those aged ≥ 12 years with moderate to severe immune compromise. SFDPH will continue to review announcements and recommendations from the CDC and FDA.

All eligible individuals are encouraged to talk with their healthcare provider about the personal benefits of getting a 2nd booster. Additional considerations may include how recently an individual received their first booster, whether they have regular close contact with other high-risk individuals, and if they have had a recent COVID-19 infection.



Although this news about 2nd booster doses is welcome, we remind providers and the public that initial vaccination with a primary series and a 1st booster are the most important doses to protect against severe disease and death. Those who are eligible for their primary COVID-19 vaccine series and/or their 1st COVID-19 vaccine booster, but have not yet received it, are strongly recommended to do so now by finding a site near you by visiting <https://sf.gov/get-vaccinated-against-covid-19> or by calling 628-652-2700.

SFDPH guidance for persons initially given a J&J COVID-19 vaccine dose remains in alignment with CDC recommendations, and in addition, SFDPH-operated vaccination sites will continue to accommodate requests for a 3rd dose (2nd booster dose) with an mRNA vaccine by San Francisco residents and those who received their J&J dose in San Francisco.

Additional Resources

CDC [COVID Vaccination Guidance for Clinicians](#)

CDPH [COVID-19 Vaccination Program Info](#)

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

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

*Minor correction added, 4/13/2022