



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 \(3rd dose\) 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 (4th 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 3rd COVID-19 vaccine dose is needed in order to: (a) induce adequate antibody titers as immunity wanes several months following the 2nd 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 **3rd 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 (2nd 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 3rd dose should consult with an HCP before scheduling an appointment for their 3rd 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 3rd 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 (2nd dose) and that all primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccinees receive their booster (3rd 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](#)