



Public Health Division

County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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BOOSTERS STRONGLY URGED FOR ALL ELIGIBLE COMMUNITY MEMBERS

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY, Calif: — Santa Cruz County Public Health Officials encourage all those who are eligible to get a booster shot now. Under California Department of Public Health Guidance, individuals may receive either the same or different COVID-19, using a “mix and match” strategy.

“Protection from the initial vaccine series may decrease over time, and a booster shot is highly effective in preventing serious hospitalization and death,” said Dr. Gail Newel, Santa Cruz County Health Officer. “It is imperative that those living in a long-term care facility or who are 65 or older receive a booster, and we encourage everyone eligible to seek one as we head into the winter months.”

People who received their initial series with any of the three COVID vaccines (Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, and Moderna) may now be eligible for a booster. Boosters are recommended for:

- Everyone 18 and older who received their Johnson & Johnson shot 2 or more months ago.
- Most people who received their Pfizer or Moderna shot 6 or more months ago:
- Those who are 65+, 18 and older living in a long-term care facility, or are 50+ with an underlying condition, are strongly urged to get their booster as soon as possible.
- Those who are 18 and older and have an underlying medical condition, or work in a setting that may increase their risk of exposure, may also consider getting a booster

The CDC definition of an underlying medical condition is very broad, and a significant portion of the population qualifies for a booster.

Vaccinations are the number one tool for preventing hospitalizations and deaths from COVID-19. It’s important to be vaccinated as quickly as possible if you haven’t done so already and to get the booster when eligible. Booster shot appointments can be scheduled through <https://myturn.ca.gov/> and are widely available at many doctor offices and pharmacies. Those needing assistance in scheduling an appointment can call the Community Bridges Helpline at 831-219-8607 or 831-440-3556 (English, Spanish, Mixteco and Triqui).

For local information on COVID-19, go to www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus or call (831) 454-4242 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.