COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY
PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Michael Hill *Health Agency Director*
Penny Borenstein, MD, MPH *Health Officer/Public Health Director*

PROVIDER HEALTH ADVISORY

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Contact: Christine Gaiger, PHN, Vaccine Coordinator, cgaiger@co.slo.ca.us, (805) 781-5577

COVID-19 Vaccine Update & Guidance: Booster Doses of Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson

As of October 22, 2021, Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccines have received Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) as boosters by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration (FDA), Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), and Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup to sustain patients' protection against COVID-19.

Guidance included in this advisory:
1. *Eligibility*
2. *Dosing*
3. *Heterologous Administration (Mixing and Matching)*
4. *Individual Assessment Considerations*

1. Eligibility

For individuals who received a **Pfizer** or **Moderna** COVID-19 vaccine, the following groups are eligible for a booster shot at 6 months or more after their initial series:

- 65 years and older
- Age 18+ who live in long-term care settings
- Age 18+ who have underlying medical conditions
- Age 18+ who work or live in high-risk settings
- Age 18+ who are at an increased risk of social inequities

For those who got the **J&J** COVID-19 vaccine, booster shots are also recommended for those ages 18+ who were vaccinated 2 or more months ago.

For more detail on eligible groups, visit:
covid19.ca.gov/vaccines/#Booster-shots-and-additional-doses

2. Dosing

Pfizer: 30 ug in a volume of 0.3 ml (same as the primary series and additional doses).

Moderna: 50 µg in a volume of 0.25 ml. This is **half** the amount used for the primary series and additional dose.

J&J: 5×10^{10} viral particles in a volume of 0.5ml (same as the primary series doses).

For more detail on dosing the COVID-19 vaccines, visit:
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html#dosing-schedule

3. Heterologous Administration (Mixing and Matching)

Heterologous administration of these booster doses has been authorized. Eligible patients have the option to receive any of the available booster vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna [half dose], or J&J). People may consider the benefits and risks of each product and discuss with their healthcare provider which product is most appropriate for them.

CDC and CDPH report that all COVID-19 vaccines have led to a strong serologic response when used as boosters. Research about the comparative impact and recommendations for choosing booster dose type is ongoing.

At Public Health clinics, patients may select vaccine type at the time of scheduling an appointment. For walk-ins, boosters may be available from open vials (or in the same type as scheduled appointments), to minimize waste.

For more detail on mixing and matching, visit:
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html#considerations-covid19-vax-booster

4. Individual Assessment Considerations

Patients may ask you for guidance on whether or not to get the booster, or which brand/type to get.

Boosters are especially important for those most at risk of severe disease, including those ages 65+, patients who are pregnant or were recently pregnant, and other high-risk groups.

The frequency and type of side effects after a booster dose are generally similar to those experienced after a primary series. Anaphylaxis is a rare risk, but the rate of anaphylaxis after a booster dose is not yet known.

Other risks to consider regarding vaccine type are as follows:

- To males ages 12-30: Potential **rare** risk of myocarditis and pericarditis as side effects following a **mRNA** dose. For more details: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/myocarditis.html
- To females ages 18-49: Potential **rare** risk of thrombosis and thrombocytopenia syndrome as side effects following a **J&J** dose. For more details: www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/info-by-product/janssen/risk-benefit-analysis.html

Considerations for helping patients make informed decisions can be found at:
www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html#considerations-covid19-vax-booster