



ALAMEDA COUNTY COVID-19 HEALTH EMERGENCY

COUNTY OF ALAMEDA ★ CALIFORNIA

Office of Emergency Services
4985 Broder Blvd, Dublin, CA 94568

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency

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Alameda County Prepares for COVID-19 Booster Shots while Awaiting Further Guidance from State and Federal Authorities

Local resources are focused on communities with low vaccination rates and that face barriers to vaccination.

ALAMEDA COUNTY, CA – The COVID-19 vaccines have proven to be safe and effective at reducing infection and preventing the most severe outcomes, including hospitalization and death. Public health and medical experts are reviewing evidence that suggests immunity from a COVID-19 vaccine may wane over time for some recipients, and federal officials are considering recommending a booster shot for those at highest risk of severe outcomes.

Today, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration vaccine advisory panel recommended authorizing a booster dose of the Pfizer vaccine at least 6 months after completion of the two-dose series for individuals aged 65 and older or at high risk for severe illness. Consideration for Moderna booster doses is expected in early October, and evidence for a Johnson and Johnson booster is anticipated toward the end of the year. The CDC already [recommends an additional dose of COVID-19 mRNA vaccine](#) for [moderately to severely immunocompromised people](#).

The FDA advisory panel’s recommendation is the first in a multi-step authorization and recommendation process. Next, the FDA will consider authorizing use of the booster, and CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will review available data in order to make a booster recommendation at a meeting scheduled for September 22-23. If the FDA authorizes a booster and the CDC adopts a recommendation by ACIP for its use, the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup will also independently review the recommendation. COVID-19 vaccine providers are generally bound to follow CDC vaccine recommendations by the terms of the federal COVID-19 vaccine distribution program.

Alameda County Health Care Services Agency is coordinating with and surveying local healthcare providers to better understand how they plan to provide their members and patients with efficient and equitable access to a COVID-19 booster shot once authorized and recommended.

We will share more information as it becomes available in the coming weeks.

Vaccine is now readily available and many local health care providers who also offer regular vaccinations (e.g., flu, pneumovax, shingles) should provide eligible patients with COVID-19 booster vaccines when authorized and recommended, so people can receive the vaccine in their normal health care environment.

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Any eligible person seeking a booster shot should consult with their medical provider or access the booster through a chain pharmacy, such as CVS, Walgreens, Rite Aid, Safeway or Costco. For a full list of vaccine-providing pharmacies, visit [Vaccines.gov](https://vaccines.gov).

Alameda County remains focused on reaching residents who are unvaccinated, as 23 percent of eligible residents are unvaccinated or haven't received their second dose of a two-dose series. The Health Care Services Agency will prioritize booster shot access for the most vulnerable residents and those at highest risk for hospitalization and death.

While partnerships with health care systems and state/federal authorities on mass vaccination sites helped to quickly vaccinate over a million residents earlier in the year, boosters can roll out more slowly as most vaccinated persons continue to have substantial protection against severe disease. At this time, Alameda County is not anticipating mass vaccination operations of the size of the earlier Oakland Coliseum or County Fairgrounds sites for booster administration.

"Getting fully vaccinated prevents severe disease for most people and remains the most important step you can take to protect yourself and others" said Dr. Nicholas Moss, Alameda County Health Officer. "The FDA's vaccine advisory committee took the first step toward boosters today because some people will see their immunity wane and are already at higher risk for severe illness. At this time, there is not enough information to suggest otherwise healthy persons should get a booster now."

If you haven't gotten vaccinated yet, you can learn more about COVID-19 vaccines at <https://covid-19.acgov.org/vaccines>, including where to get vaccinated and frequently asked questions. When you are ready, a vaccine will be waiting for you.

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