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**LAC DPH COVID-19 Update:**  
**COVID-19 Vaccine Additional Dose vs**  
**Booster and Vaccine Coadministration**



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*This message is intended for all healthcare providers in Los Angeles County.  
Please distribute as appropriate.*

### **Key Messages**

- It is recommended that moderately to severely immunocompromised persons who have received 2 doses of mRNA vaccine are given an additional dose. However, patients should not be given or referred for booster doses as these are not yet authorized or recommended and there are risks to off-label administration. See below.
- COVID-19 vaccines can be coadministered with influenza and/or other vaccines. Annual influenza vaccination is recommended for all persons aged 6 months and older who do not have contraindications. Providers are encouraged to begin vaccinating for influenza now. See below.

### **Update**

- **Inappropriate exemptions may subject California physicians to discipline:** The Medical Board of California has [issued a statement](#) informing licensees that physicians who grant mask or other exemptions without conducting an appropriate medical exam and without finding a legitimate medical reason for supporting such an exemption may be subject to disciplinary action. The Medical Board encourages the public to file a complaint if they feel that a physician is granting exemptions inappropriately at <https://www.mbc.ca.gov/>.

### **Additional Doses versus Boosters of COVID-19 Vaccine.**

**An additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine** is recommended only for moderately and severely immunocompromised people at least 28 days after they complete an initial 2-dose primary mRNA vaccine series. This is because the immune response following the primary vaccine series was found to likely to be insufficient in this group of people. See [COVID-19 Vaccine Indications for Patients Who are Immunocompromised](#) for more information.

**Booster doses** of any COVID-19 vaccine are not currently authorized by the FDA and are not recommended by the CDC. A booster dose is a dose of vaccine administered when the initial sufficient immune response to a primary vaccine series is likely to have waned over time. The FDA is conducting an independent evaluation and determination of the safety and effectiveness of a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose and ACIP will be issuing recommendations to the CDC for approval after a thorough review of the evidence.

The California COVID-19 Vaccination Program has sent a [letter](#) to vaccine providers warning that off-label use of COVID-19 vaccine for booster doses could expose providers to the following risks:

- Administration of the product off label may not be covered under the PREP Act or the PREP Act declaration; therefore, providers may not have immunity from claims.
- Providers giving off-label doses would be in violation of the CDC Program provider agreement potentially impacting their ability to remain a provider in the CDC program.

- Administration fees may not be reimbursable by payers.

In addition, individuals who receive an off-label dose may not be eligible for compensation under the [Countermeasures Injury Compensation Program](#) after a possible adverse event. See the [California COVID-19 Vaccination Program Update](#) to learn more.

*Related CDC Resources:*

For Providers

- [Considerations for use of an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine following a primary vaccine series](#)
- FAQs- [COVID-19 Vaccine Indications for Patients Who Are Immunocompromised](#)

For Patients

- [COVID-19 Vaccines for Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised People](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot](#)

**COVID-19 Vaccine and Coadministration with Influenza and Other Vaccines**

COVID-19 vaccines currently approved or authorized in the US may be administered without regarding to timing with other vaccines. This includes simultaneous administration of COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines on the same day, as well as coadministration within 14 days. See CDC [Coadministration of COVID-19 vaccines with other vaccines](#)

Annual influenza vaccination is recommended for all persons aged 6 months and older who do not have contraindications. Influenza vaccination is particularly important this year to help maintain our hospital capacity, to reduce the likelihood of flu-like illness that may be confused with COVID-19, and to decrease influenza/SARS-CoV-2 virus coinfection. Providers are encouraged to start vaccinating patients against influenza now.

The CDC recommends that if COVID-19 vaccines are administered with other vaccines at the same visit:

- Separate injection sites by 1 inch or more, if possible
- Administer COVID-19 vaccines and vaccines more likely to cause a local reaction (e.g., high dose or adjuvanted influenza vaccines) in different limbs, if possible.

*Related resources:*

- CDC COCA Webinar *2021-2022 Influenza Vaccination Recommendations and Guidance on Coadministration with COVID-19 Vaccines* 9-9-21 [Slides](#) [Recording](#)
- CDC Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Resources for Health Professionals [Information for the 2021-22 Influenza Season](#).
- California COVID-19 Vaccination Program, [Coadministration with other Vaccines](#)

**Visit the LAC DPH [COVID-19 Hub](#) and [Vaccination Hub](#)**

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This communication was sent by Sharon Balter, MD, Director, Division of Communicable Disease Control and Prevention, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

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