



***** REVISED COVID-19 Health Advisory #29 *****

Please see revised *Fully-Vaccinated vs. Unvaccinated Persons* chart

COVID-19 December 15, 2021

Please distribute to all providers in the facility

Go to www.ShastaReady.org and click “Medical Professionals” for an electronic version of this Health Update

COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters

Please encourage your patients to get vaccinated and get boosted to prevent COVID-19

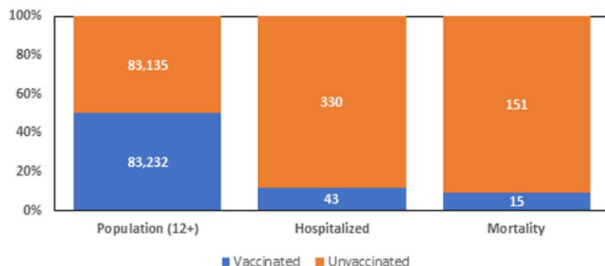
Get vaccinated – it’s safe, effective, and free. Vaccination is the most important tool to end the COVID-19 pandemic.

Booster vaccination is critically important as studies show vaccine immunity decreases after 6 months. With new variants of SARS-CoV-2 continuing to occur, boosting vaccine immunity is necessary.

Why? As with other vaccines, the delayed third dose (e.g., 6-month booster) results in a higher quality immune response. Through affinity maturation, antibodies get better at recognizing their viral target, even if changes to the target have occurred, as with the variants. Studies are ongoing about Omicron and vaccines effectiveness. In the interim, maximizing protection with a full vaccine series including boosters is our best bet to fight current variant strains and to prevent the emergence of more virulent variants.

Of particular concern are seniors. Individuals over 65 years do not always develop robust immunity to vaccination (for example, the senior influenza vaccine is 4 times more potent than the regular influenza vaccine) and they are especially susceptible to breakthrough infection from COVID-19 months after vaccination. Unfortunately, this has played out in Shasta County resulting in deaths.

COVID-19 Among Fully-Vaccinated vs. Unvaccinated Persons in Shasta County (09/14/2021 - 12/14/2021)



In the chart to the left: Of the 15 vaccinated persons who died, all were over 70 years of age and only one had received a booster but less than 2 weeks from date of death. 10 of the 15 were eligible for a booster but had not yet received it.

*Unvaccinated hospitalizations includes 15 partially vaccinated individuals.

*Unvaccinated deaths includes 4 partially vaccinated individuals.

*Of vaccinated deaths, 10 had received their last dose more than 6 months prior, and had not yet gotten their booster.

“Engaging individuals, families and communities to protect and improve health and wellbeing.”

Robin Schurig, Branch Director
Karen Ramstrom, DO, MSPH, Health Officer
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Booster doses – Booster doses are now available for everyone eligible by age and time after initial vaccination series.

- ✓ For Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine recipients, booster doses for ages *18 years and older* can be given 2 months after the first vaccination.
- ✓ For Moderna vaccine recipients, booster doses for ages *18 years and older* can be given 6 months after completion of the initial 2 dose series.
- ✓ For Pfizer (Comirnaty) vaccine recipients, booster doses for ages *16 years and older* can be given 6 months after completion of the initial 2 dose series.

The Pfizer/BioNTech booster lowers the risk for confirmed illness, severe illness, and death from COVID-19, according to two large studies from Israel which only uses this vaccine. ([Risk for Severe COVID-19 and Death Plummets with Pfizer Booster \(medscape.com\)](#))

Mix & Match. The booster shot can be a different vaccine brand than the original vaccine, as long as long as the original vaccination series was completed (one dose of Johnson & Johnson or two doses of Pfizer or Moderna).

Additional primary doses – Additional mRNA vaccine doses are recommended for those aged 12 years or older with moderately to severely compromised immune systems 28 days after completing the initial series. Pfizer-BioNTech (ages ≥ 12 years), Moderna (ages ≥ 18 years)

This is not a booster but is considered an additional dose in those not expected to mount a good immune response to the original vaccine series.

This includes people who:

- Get **active cancer treatment** for tumors or cancers of the blood
- Got an **organ transplant** and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Got a **stem cell transplant** within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Have **moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency** (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Have **advanced or untreated HIV infection**
- Get **active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids** or other drugs that suppress immune response

Find a vaccine provider –

Go to [My Turn](#) or [Shasta Ready - COVID-19 - Vaccinations](#) for a list of additional providers

Resources:

[Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)

[Booster dose questions and answers \(CDPH\)](#)

[Additional dose questions and answers \(CDPH\)](#)

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