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GAVIN NEWSOM  
GOVERNOR

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PIN 22-06-ASC  
**(Supersedes PIN 21-51-ASC)**

TO: ALL ADULT AND SENIOR CARE PROGRAM LICENSEES

FROM: ***Original signed by Kevin Gaines***  
KEVIN GAINES  
Deputy Director  
Community Care Licensing Division

SUBJECT: **CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) VACCINE ADDITIONAL  
AND BOOSTER DOSES**

**Provider Information Notice (PIN) Summary**

PIN 22-06-ASC supersedes PIN 21-51-ASC, dated December 15, 2021, and informs Adult and Senior Care (ASC) licensees about the availability of both the third (additional) dose and booster dose of COVID-19 vaccines. Specifically, this PIN provides updates in the following areas:

- New preferential recommendation for mRNA vaccinations (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) for both primary series and boosters.
- New boosters for individuals aged 12 and older.
- New booster eligibility five (5) months after completing primary series.
- Boosters for people vaccinated outside of the United States.

**Important!** Underlined text in this PIN indicates where additions have been made.

***Please post/keep this PIN in the facility where all persons in care and facility staff as well as families and representatives of persons in care in the facility can access it and distribute the PIN Summary for Persons in Care (at the end of this PIN) to persons in care and, if applicable, their representatives.***

**NEW! All COVID-19 ASC PINs are organized by topic on a new page that can be accessed from the [COVID-19 Landing Page](#), under the ASC Program PIN banner. This page is titled [ASC COVID-19 PINs Organized by Topic](#). PINs are also organized by number and available directly under both the ASC Program PIN banner and the [ASC PINs page](#).**

The Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) wants to ensure ASC licensees are aware of new guidance in regard to additional and booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), studies show decreasing vaccine effectiveness against infection over time. It is important to ensure optimal immunity against infection, especially for older and disabled adults and long-term care facility residents who are more vulnerable to severe infection. Recent increases in COVID-19 cases in the community and in ASC residential facilities among people who completed their primary COVID-19 vaccine series over 6 months ago may reflect waning immunity, highlighting an urgent need for COVID-19 vaccine boosters in this population. Also, the recent emergence of the [Omicron variant](#) further emphasizes the importance of vaccination and boosters.

For individuals who are immunocompromised, an additional dose is necessary since an initial vaccine series is likely to be insufficient for protection from the virus and an additional dose can increase antibody response.

A booster dose is recommended for individuals aged 12 years or older, who have completed their primary COVID-19 vaccine series and met the timeline requirements based upon which primary vaccine dose or series they received. The new guidance includes:

- [CDC recommendations regarding](#) third (additional) doses of COVID-19 vaccine for individuals who are immunocompromised, and
- [Federal Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) Pfizer-BioNTech Guidance](#), [FDA Moderna Guidance](#), [CDC](#), and [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#) recommendations that expand eligibility for COVID-19 booster doses.

The [FDA](#), [CDC](#), and [CDPH](#) guidance addresses the Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccines and is outlined in this PIN.

With flu season in progress, CCLD reminds licensees that it is also important that persons in care and facility staff receive a flu vaccine. CDC [Frequently Asked Influenza \(Flu\) Questions 2021-2022 Season](#) specifies that individuals can get a flu vaccine at the same time as a COVID-19 initial dose or series vaccine or a COVID-19 booster shot.

**Important!** For guidance related to vaccination and booster requirements for facility staff, please see [PIN 22-05-ASC: Adult and Senior Care Facility Worker Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\) Vaccination and Booster Requirements](#)

### **THIRD (ADDITIONAL) AND BOOSTER DOSE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MODERATELY TO SEVERELY COMPROMISED IMMUNE SYSTEMS**

Individuals with moderately to severely compromised immune systems are especially vulnerable to COVID-19, and may not build the same level of immunity to 2-dose mRNA vaccines compared to individuals who are not immunocompromised. The CDC recommends that individuals with [moderately to severely compromised](#) immune systems receive a third (additional dose) of either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines at least twenty-eight (28) days after completing their primary Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine series. This recommendation applies to Pfizer-BioNTech recipients aged 5 years and older, and Moderna recipients aged 18 years and older who have a compromised immune system. For those who received either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine series, a third (additional dose) of the same vaccine should be used.

After receiving a third mRNA dose, immunocompromised individuals aged 12 years and older are also eligible to receive a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine booster dose (fourth dose) at least five (5) months after completing their third mRNA vaccine dose, immunocompromised individuals aged 18 years and older are eligible to receive a booster shot of either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna at least five (5) months after completing their third mRNA vaccine dose according to the recommendations specified in the "Who is Eligible for a Vaccine Booster Dose" section of this PIN.

**Important!** At this time, the CDC recommends that individuals with moderately to severely compromised immune systems who received the Janssen ([Johnson & Johnson](#)) COVID-19 vaccine are **only** qualified to receive a booster dose (total of 2 doses, 1 primary and 1 booster) according to the recommendations and timelines specified in the "Who is Eligible for a Vaccine Booster Dose" section of this PIN. These individuals do not qualify for the third (additional) dose described above.

For more information on COVID-19 vaccines for [immunocompromised](#) individuals, please visit the CDC website.

### **COVID-19 VACCINE BOOSTER RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS AGED 12 YEARS AND OLDER**

The [FDA](#), [CDC](#), and [CDPH](#) recommend administration of a single booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine for individuals aged 12 years and older who have already been fully vaccinated with the Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine.

**Important!** Priority groups for vaccine booster doses are people 50 years and older, and people 18 years and older who live in long-term care settings, which includes all residents of ASC facilities.

### **Who is Eligible for a Vaccine Booster Dose?**

Vaccine recipients are eligible for single-dose boosters as outlined in the table below:

<b>Pfizer-BioNTech</b>
<p><u>If the individual is:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>age 12 years and older, and</u></li><li>• <u>received a second dose at least five (5) months ago.</u></li></ul>
<b>Moderna</b>
<p>If the individual is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• age 18 years and older, and</li><li>• received a second dose at least <u>five (5)</u> months ago.</li></ul>
<b>Janssen (Johnson &amp; Johnson)</b>
<p>If the individual is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• age 18 years and older, and</li><li>• received a first dose of the Janssen (Johnson &amp; Johnson) vaccine at least two (2) months ago.</li></ul>
<b><u>Vaccinated Outside the United States**</u></b>
<p><u>If the individual is:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>age 12 years and older, and</u></li><li>• <u>received a second dose at least five (5) months ago.</u></li></ul> <p><u>**Applies to people who completed all of the recommended doses of a World Health Organization Emergency Use Listed (WHO-EUL) COVID-19 vaccine not approved or authorized by FDA or people who completed a heterologous (mix and match) series composed of any combination of FDA-approved, FDA-authorized, or WHO-EUL COVID-19 vaccines.</u></p>

**Important!** CDPH has developed a [COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility chart](#) that is updated frequently to assist with the primary vaccine series and booster eligibility.

### **Choosing a Vaccine Booster Dose ("Mixing and Matching")**

COVID-19 vaccine recipients 18 and older who get a booster dose may choose between a booster that is the **same** brand vaccine they received for their initial dose or series of doses **or** a booster that is a **different** brand vaccine than the vaccine they originally received for their initial dose or series of doses. While these individuals may choose to receive any currently available COVID-19 vaccine, CDC now recommends a preference for the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) over the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccine.

For example:

- Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine recipients who are in one of the eligible categories for a booster may receive a single booster dose of any of three vaccines (Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech, or Janssen (Johnson & Johnson), at least five (5) months after receiving their primary vaccination. However, receiving an mRNA COVID-19 booster vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) is preferred.
- Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine recipients may receive a single booster dose of any of three vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna vaccine, or Janssen (Johnson & Johnson),) at least two (2) months after receiving their primary Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccination. However, receiving an mRNA COVID-19 booster vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) is preferred.

This choice may depend on advice from a health care provider, individual preference, availability, or convenience. For more information on vaccines or boosters, please visit the [FDA](#), [CDC](#), and [CDPH](#) websites.

### **Important!**

- COVID-19 vaccine recipients 12 to 17 years old are only eligible for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine as a booster dose.
- People who were fully vaccinated outside the United States (see above) are only eligible for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine as a booster dose.

### **ACCESSING VACCINES FOR AN ADDITIONAL OR A BOOSTER DOSE**

Licensees, facility staff, and persons in care may continue to use existing resources to access COVID-19 vaccines for an additional or a booster dose. These resources include:

- **MyTurn.** The CDPH website [myturn.ca.gov](https://myturn.ca.gov) provides vaccine registration, scheduling for vaccine appointments, and notification.
- **Vaccine Finder.** The CDC website [Vaccine Finder](#) provides nearby vaccine locations, including retail pharmacy locations.

- **Local Health Departments (LHDs).** [LHDs](#) may have information available about locations where COVID-19 vaccine is available in the local community. Please check your LHD's website for vaccine information.
- **Local Retail Pharmacies.** Pharmacies and grocery stores such as [CVS](#), [Walgreens](#), [Rite Aid](#), [Albertsons](#), [Safeway](#), and others offer COVID-19 [vaccination appointments](#).
- **Healthcare Providers.** The COVID-19 vaccine may also be available through healthcare providers such as hospitals, clinics, doctor's offices, and other locations. Individuals seeking vaccination through a private healthcare provider should consult with, or check the website for, their primary care provider.
- **Regional Centers.** Information about accessing the COVID-19 vaccine may also be available through the [Regional Center](#) for a person in care with an intellectual and/or developmental disability.

An in-home visit or assistance with transportation to receive a booster or additional dose is available. Please visit the [MyTurn](#) website for more information.

**Important!** If licensees still have difficulties and are unable to arrange COVID-19 vaccination from any of the above resources, please contact the CDPH call center for support:

**Provider COVID-19 Call Center**

**Email:** [covidcallcenter@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:covidcallcenter@cdph.ca.gov)

**Phone:** (833) 502-1245 Monday – Friday from 8 AM–6 PM

**On-site Vaccination by Pharmacies**

For greater convenience of facility staff and persons in care, facilities may be able to arrange for on-site vaccination by pharmacy partners, including twenty-one [national federal pharmacy program participants](#) and [long-term care pharmacies](#).

Licensees may contact their nearest participating pharmacy to learn which services, such as an on-site vaccination clinic, they are able to offer. The CDPH [Long Term Care Facility \(LTCF\) COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit](#) which, among other things, includes a flow chart to help facilities identify resources that fit their specific needs.

**Important!** An [LTCF Vaccine Access Assistance Request](#) form is also a resource to assist residents and facility staff in accessing vaccination for COVID-19.

**RESPONDING TO THE MONTHLY LICENSEE SURVEY**

Licensees are reminded it is important to continue responding to the Monthly Licensee Survey CDSS sends out via Everbridge as described in [PIN 21-34-ASC](#). The current survey relates to COVID-19 vaccines and access.

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

The following resources are available online:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
  - [COVID-19 Vaccine Access in Long-Term Care Settings](#)
  - Long-Term Care Administrators and Managers:  
[Options for Coordinating Access to COVID-19 Vaccines](#)
  - [Vaccines for COVID-19](#)
- California Department of Social Services
  - [Community Care Licensing Division homepage](#) (includes all COVID-19 related materials (Provider Information Notices (PINs) and other resources)
- California Department of Public Health
  - [California COVID-19 Vaccination Program](#)
  - [COVID-19 Booster Vaccines](#)
  - [Local County Health Departments](#)
- Food and Drug Administration
  - [Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#)
  - [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
  - [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
  - [Janssen \(Johnson & Johnson\) COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [Hotlines and local info](#)
- [Vaccinate ALL 58](#)

If you have any questions, please contact your local [ASC Regional Office](#).



### **PIN Summary for Persons in Care**

#### **A Companion Guide for Provider Information Notice (PIN) 22-06-ASC, CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) VACCINE ADDITIONAL AND BOOSTER DOSES**

We have prepared this **PIN Summary for Persons in Care** as a companion to **PIN 22-06-ASC** to inform you of guidance we've provided to your care providers concerning your care.

The Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) of the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) has provided the licensee of your facility with new guidance from the:

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) that provides recommendations on third (additional) doses of COVID-19 vaccine for individuals who are immunocompromised, and
- [Federal Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) Pfizer-BioNTech Guidance](#), [FDA Moderna Guidance](#), [CDC](#), and [California Department of Public Health \(CDPH\)](#) recommendations that expand eligibility for COVID-19 booster doses.

The [FDA](#), [CDC](#), and [CDPH](#) guidance addresses the Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccines.

**Important!** With flu season in progress, it is also important for you to receive a flu vaccine. CDC [Frequently Asked Influenza \(Flu\) Questions 2021-2022 Season](#) specifies that individuals can get a flu vaccine at the same time as a COVID-19 initial dose or series vaccine or a COVID-19 booster shot.

### **THIRD (ADDITIONAL) AND BOOSTER DOSE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH MODERATELY TO SEVERELY COMPROMISED IMMUNE SYSTEMS**

Individuals with moderately to severely compromised immune systems are especially vulnerable to COVID-19 and may not build the same level of immunity to 2-dose mRNA vaccines compared to individuals who are not immunocompromised. The CDC recommends that individuals with [moderately to severely compromised](#) immune systems receive a third (additional dose) of either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines at least twenty-eight (28) days after completing their primary Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccine series. This recommendation applies to Pfizer-BioNTech recipients aged 5 years and older, and Moderna recipients aged 18 years and older who have a compromised immune system. For those who received



either Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna's COVID-19 vaccine series, a third (additional dose) of the same vaccine should be used.

After receiving a third mRNA dose, immunocompromised individuals aged 12 years and older are also eligible to receive a single booster dose (fourth dose) at least 5 months after completing their third mRNA vaccine dose according to the recommendations specified in the "Who is Eligible for a Vaccine Booster Dose" section below.

**Important!** At this time, the CDC recommends that individuals with moderately to severely compromised immune systems who received the Janssen ([Johnson & Johnson](#)) COVID-19 vaccine are **only** qualified to receive a booster dose (total of 2 doses, 1 primary and 1 booster) according to the "Who Is Eligible for a Vaccine Booster Dose" table below. These individuals do not qualify for the third (additional) dose described above.

For more information on COVID-19 vaccines for [immunocompromised](#) individuals, please visit the CDC website.

## COVID-19 VACCINE BOOSTER RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALL INDIVIDUALS AGED 12 YEARS AND OLDER

The [FDA](#), [CDC](#), and [CDPH](#) recommend administration of a single booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine for all individuals aged 12 years and older who have already been fully vaccinated with the Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine.

**Important!** Priority groups for vaccine booster doses are people 50 years and older, and people 18 years and older who live in long-term care settings, which includes all residents of Adult and Senior Care facilities.

### Who is Eligible for a Vaccine Booster Dose?

Vaccine recipients are eligible for single-dose boosters as outlined in the table below.

Pfizer-BioNTech
<p>If the individual is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• age 12 years and older, and</li> <li>• received a second dose at least five (5) months ago.</li> </ul>
Moderna
<p>If the individual is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• aged 18 years and older, and</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>received a second dose at least five (5) months ago.</li> </ul>
<b>Janssen (Johnson &amp; Johnson)</b>
<p>If the individual is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>age 18 years and older, and</li> <li>received a first dose of the Janssen (Johnson &amp; Johnson) vaccine at least two (2) months ago.</li> </ul>
<b>Vaccinated Outside the United States**</b>
<p>If the individual is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>age 12 years and older, and</li> <li>received a second dose at least five (5) months ago.</li> </ul> <p>**Applies to people who completed all of the recommended doses of an World Health Organization Emergency Use Listed (WHO-EUL) COVID-19 vaccine not approved or authorized by FDA or people who completed a heterologous (mix and match) series composed of any combination of FDA-approved, FDA-authorized, or WHO-EUL COVID-19 vaccines.</p>

**Important!** CDPH has developed a [COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility chart](#) that is updated frequently to assist with the primary vaccine series and booster eligibility.

### **Choosing a Vaccine Booster Dose ("Mixing and Matching")**

COVID-19 vaccine recipients 18 and older who get a booster dose may choose between a booster that is the **same** brand vaccine they received for their initial dose or series of doses **or** a booster that is a **different** brand vaccine than the vaccine they originally received for their initial dose or series of doses. While these individuals may choose to receive any currently available COVID-19 vaccine, CDC now recommends a preference for the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) over the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccine.

For example:

- Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine recipients may receive a single booster dose of any of three vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Janssen (Johnson & Johnson)) vaccine at least two (2) months after receiving their primary Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccination. However, receiving an mRNA COVID-19 booster vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) is preferred.
- Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine recipients who are in one of the eligible categories for a booster may receive a single booster dose of any of three vaccines (Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech, or Janssen (Johnson & Johnson)) at least five (5) months after receiving their primary vaccination.

However, receiving an mRNA COVID-19 booster vaccine (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) is preferred.

This choice may depend on advice from a health care provider, individual preference, availability, or convenience.

For more information on vaccines or boosters, please visit the [FDA](#), [CDC](#), and [CDPH](#) websites.

## **ACCESSING VACCINES FOR AN ADDITIONAL OR A BOOSTER DOSE**

You and the licensee of your facility may continue to use existing resources to access COVID-19 vaccines for an additional or a booster dose. These resources include:

- **MyTurn.** The CDPH website [myturn.ca.gov](https://myturn.ca.gov) provides vaccine registration, scheduling for vaccine appointments, and notification.
- **Vaccine Finder.** The CDC website [Vaccine Finder](#) provides nearby vaccine locations, including retail pharmacy locations.
- **Local Health Departments (LHDs).** [LHDs](#) may have information available about locations where COVID-19 vaccine is available in the local community. Please check your LHD's website for vaccine information.
- **Local Retail Pharmacies.** Pharmacies and grocery stores such as [CVS](#), [Walgreens](#), [Rite Aid](#), [Albertsons](#), [Safeway](#), and others offer COVID-19 [vaccination appointments](#).
- **Healthcare Providers.** The COVID-19 vaccine may also be available through healthcare providers, such as hospitals, clinics, doctor's offices, and other locations. If you seek vaccination through a private healthcare provider, you should consult with, or check the website for, your primary care provider.
- **Regional Centers.** Information about accessing the COVID-19 vaccine may also be available through your [Regional Center](#) if you have an intellectual and/or developmental disability.

An in-home visit or assistance with transportation to receive a booster or additional dose is available. Please visit the [MyTurn](#) website for more information, and let your care providers know if you need help accessing these services.

***Your care providers, the licensee of your facility, and your local Long-Term Care [Ombudsman](#) (call 1-800-510-2020) are available to answer your questions.***