



Public Health

County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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Press Release

For Release: Immediately

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Date: October 21, 2022

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BIVALENT COVID-19 BOOSTERS NOW AVAILABLE IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY FOR CHILDREN AGES 5 AND UP

Santa Cruz County, Calif.: Following recent approval by the FDA and CDC, the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup also recommends a bivalent booster be given 2 months after the primary series or the last booster dose, or 3 months after COVID-19 infection, for children ages 5 years and up. The Pfizer bivalent vaccine is authorized for use as a single booster dose in individuals 5 years of age and older and the Moderna bivalent booster is authorized for use as a single booster dose in individuals 6 years of age and older. The bivalent vaccines provide superior, up to date, protection against the original strain of SARS-CoV-2 and the current circulating omicron variants BA.4 and BA.5.

"We are anticipating another winter surge," said Dr. Cal Gordon, Deputy Health Officer for the County of Santa Cruz. "The approval of the updated COVID booster for those as young as 5 is a critical tool in protecting some of the youngest members of our community."

Those wanting their children to receive the updated COVID-19 booster vaccine should contact their healthcare provider. For a list of healthcare providers giving COVID-19 vaccine and walk-in clinics in Santa Cruz County visit www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirusvaccine.

Staying up to date on vaccination with the recommended boosters remains the best way to prevent hospitalization and death from COVID-19, including for young children.

For local information go to www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus or call (831) 454-4242 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.