



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

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LISA M. GARRETT
DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL

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To: All County Employees

From: Lisa M. Garrett
Director of Personnel

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Director of Public Health

BOOSTER ELIGIBILITY AND COVID-19 VACCINE FOR CHILDREN

The COVID-19 virus continues to spread, especially to those who are not fully vaccinated. The more contagious Delta variant is now widespread in LA County. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that all people [ages 5 and older](#) receive a COVID-19 primary series and that certain fully vaccinated people receive a COVID-19 vaccine [booster dose](#). The LA County Department of Health strongly encourages staff to get a booster dose before winter if they are eligible.

The COVID-19 vaccines continue to be remarkably effective in reducing risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death, including against the Delta variant. We continue to see highly effective protection against hospitalizations and severe outcomes for people who are fully vaccinated. However, we are starting to see signs of reduced protection against infection and mild to moderate disease among certain populations, including those older than 65 years of age and those with underlying medical conditions. In addition, there is data that people who received a single Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine are better protected if they receive a booster dose.

County employees are not required to receive a booster dose at this time; however, they are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 with either two doses of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine or one dose of the J&J vaccine.

BOOSTER ELIGIBILITY

Your [eligibility](#) for a booster dose depends on which type of vaccine you originally received (your primary series). The booster dose may be any COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer, Moderna, or J&J); you are allowed to 'mix and match'.

People whose primary series was J&J COVID-19 vaccine

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- **Everyone who received J&J** is eligible to get a vaccine booster dose at least 2 months after their initial dose.

People whose primary series was either Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine

- The following people are eligible to get a booster dose at least 6 months after their 2nd dose of their primary vaccine series:
 - 65 years of age and older
 - 18 years of age and older who live in long-term care settings
 - 18 years and older who have underlying medical conditions or who are at higher risk due to social inequities
 - 18 and older at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of their occupational or institutional setting; this includes all essential workers

If you have questions about the risks and benefits of a booster dose or what booster is right for you, talk with your doctor or healthcare provider.

How to get your booster dose

- Visit [VaccinateLACounty.com](https://www.vaccinatelacounty.com) to find a location near you. There is no out-of-pocket cost for the booster dose.
- When you go to the location, take proof of vaccination such as your CDC white card or [digital vaccination record](#) to show that you completed your initial series:
 - At least 2 months ago if it was J&J/Janssen
 - At least 6 months ago if it was Pfizer or Moderna.
- If you attend a site run by Public Health, and you don't have your vaccination verification, you will be asked to sign a self-attestation form: [English](#) | [Español](#) ([Other languages](#))

For more information, please visit the DPH COVID -19 Vaccine Booster information [webpage](#), [infographic](#), and the [COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Summary Table](#).

COVID-19 VACCINE FOR CHILDREN

If you have children, vaccination is the **best way to protect them** from getting COVID-19. Even though COVID-19 is milder in children, some get very sick or have lasting health problems after infection. Children can spread the virus to others. Vaccinating your child can help **protect family and friends**. This includes people who are too young to be vaccinated (children under 5) and those who are at higher risk of getting very sick from COVID-19, such as [older adults](#) and those with [certain medical conditions](#).

All children ages 5 and older can now get an age-appropriate dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine.

- Adolescents ages 12 and older get the same Pfizer vaccine as adults.
- Children ages 5-11 get a pediatric version of the Pfizer vaccine made for their age group. It has the same active ingredient but is a smaller (1/3rd) dose and is given with a smaller needle.
- Both versions are given as 2 doses 21 days apart. They can be given the same time as other vaccines.
- It is important to get the second dose to get full protection from the vaccine. Your child is fully vaccinated 2 weeks after they get the second dose.

The Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are not available for children under 18 years of age. Both these vaccines are currently only authorized for people 18 and older.

COVID-19 vaccines are safe for children and adults.

- COVID-19 vaccines have gone through the most intensive safety monitoring in US history.
- Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine has been rigorously tested in clinical trials. The studies showed that the vaccine is [safe](#) and [effective](#) in children ages 5-17, as well as in adults.
- The vaccine now has full approval from the FDA for people ages 16 and over and continues to be monitored for safety.
- Your child can't get COVID-19 from any COVID-19 vaccine and serious health events are rare.
- For more details about COVID-19 Vaccines for children, see [Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions for Parents & Guardians](#).
- If you have questions or concerns, speak with your child's doctor.

Where to get a COVID-19 Vaccine for Children

- Vaccines are available at many doctors' offices, health clinics, pharmacies, schools, special COVID-19 vaccination sites, and pop-up sites. Visit [VaccinateLaCounty.com](#) to find a site near you. Make sure they have the right Pfizer vaccine available for your child's age and ask how **parent consent** should be given.
- Call the DPH Vaccine Call center at [833-540-0473](tel:833-540-0473) 8am to 8:30pm if you need help finding a vaccine, transportation, or in-home vaccination. Information is available in many languages 24/7 by calling [2-1-1](tel:2-1-1).

For more details about COVID-19 Vaccines for children, See [Vaccine Facts for Parents](#) and [Vaccine Frequently Asked Questions for Parents & Guardians](#) at [VaccinateLaCounty.com](#)

Should you have any questions, please contact me or Cynthia Harding, Chief Strategist for Interdepartmental Initiatives, at (213) 351-2939 or by email at CHarding@hr.lacounty.gov.

LMG:BF:PAM
RC:CH:DM

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