



Public Health Division

County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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For Release: Immediately

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BIVALENT COVID-19 BOOSTERS NOW AVAILABLE IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Santa Cruz County, Calif.: Following recent approval by the FDA and CDC, the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup also recommends either the Pfizer or Moderna bivalent booster to be given 2 months after the primary series or the last booster dose. The Moderna bivalent vaccine is authorized for use as a single booster dose in individuals 18 years of age and older and the Pfizer bivalent booster is authorized for use as a single booster dose in individuals 12 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.

“Updating our booster vaccines to combat the circulating variants marks our transition to living with COVID,” said Dr. David Ghilarducci, Deputy Health Officer for the County of Santa Cruz. “The COVID-19 virus continues to change and adapt and so must we. Staying up to date on your COVID vaccinations continues to be the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones.”

Those wanting to receive their bivalent booster vaccine should contact their healthcare provider or book an appointment through MyTurn, Vaccine Finder or local pharmacies. For a list of healthcare providers giving COVID-19 vaccine in Santa Cruz County visit

www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirusvaccine.

The monovalent mRNA COVID-19 vaccines are no longer authorized as booster doses for individuals 12 years of age and older. 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.