



**California Department of Public Health  
Center for Health Care Quality  
AFC Skilled Nursing Facilities Infection Prevention Call  
April 13, 2022**

**Weekly Call-in Information:**

- Tuesday 8:00am All Facilities Calls: 844.721.7239; Access code: 7993227
  
- Wednesday 3:00pm SNF Infection Prevention Webinars:
  - Register at: <https://www.hsag.com/cdph-ip-webinars>
  - Recordings, call notes and slides can be accessed at <https://www.hsag.com/en/covid-19/long-term-care-facilities/cdph-ip-webinars-past/>
  
- Friday 11:30 Booster Vaccine Quickinars:
  - Register at: <https://bit.ly/FullSpeedAheadBoosterProgram>
  - Recordings: <https://www.hsag.com/covid-19/vaccine-resources>

**\*\*NEW\*\*** Wednesday Webinar Frequently Asked Questions Document is Posted  
[https://www.hsag.com/globalassets/covid-19/cdph\\_faqsipwebinars.pdf](https://www.hsag.com/globalassets/covid-19/cdph_faqsipwebinars.pdf)

**Important Links to State and Federal Guidance**

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| Important Links and FAQs to CDPH State Guidance | <a href="https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Guidance.aspx">https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/Guidance.aspx</a>           |
| 2020 CDPH All Facilities Letters (AFLs)         | <a href="https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/LNCAFL20.aspx">https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/LNCAFL20.aspx</a>           |
| 2021 CDPH AFLs                                  | <a href="https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/LNCAFL21.aspx">https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/LNCAFL21.aspx</a>           |
| 2022 CDPH AFLs                                  | <a href="https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/LNCAFL22.aspx">https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/LNCAFL22.aspx</a>           |
| CDC COVID-19 Data Tracker                       | <a href="https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view">https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view</a>                           |
| CDPH Wednesday Webinar FAQs                     | <a href="https://www.hsag.com/globalassets/covid-19/cdph_faqsipwebinars.pdf">https://www.hsag.com/globalassets/covid-19/cdph_faqsipwebinars.pdf</a> |

**Vaccine Questions & Answers**

**Q-1: Who is eligible to get the second booster? When should the second booster be administered?**

**A:** Second boosters can now be administered to individuals over 12 years old who are immunosuppressed and/or over 50 years old. The second booster can be given at least 4 months after their first booster. For people 18–49 who received two doses of the J&J vaccine, they are also eligible for a second booster 4 months after their first booster. The CDPH COVID-19 Vaccine Timing by Age document is now updated with the new second booster guidance:  
<https://eziz.org/assets/docs/COVID19/IMM-1396.pdf>.

**Q-2: Which vaccine can people get for a second booster?**

**A:** People 18+ years old can get any mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. People ages 12-17 years old can only receive the Pfizer vaccine as their booster.

**Q-3: Is the second booster required for nursing home HCP and residents?**

**A:** No. There is no current requirement for a second COVID-19 booster for residents or HCP.

**Q-4: What should nursing homes do about a second COVID-19 booster dose?**

**A:** Half of California nursing home residents received their first booster by mid-December 2021. Many will be eligible for a second booster in April 2022. SNFs should inform eligible residents and staff about the new recommendations and provide information on how to access a second booster if interested ([MyTurn](#), [Vaccines.gov](#)). SNFs may choose to administer second boosters to eligible residents and staff, therefore should develop a plan for accessing additional COVID-19 booster doses.

**Q-5: Can nursing homes give the second booster to HCP who do not meet the eligibility criteria, that want to receive it now?**

**A:** The CDC does not recommend administering the second booster yet to HCP who are not eligible yet, meaning they are under the age of 50 and/or are not moderately to severely immunocompromised

**Q-6: What are the benefits of a second booster dose?**

**A:** The benefits of a second booster dose include:

- A second booster dose is a safe tool to provide additional protection against COVID-19 infection and severe disease.
- SNF residents and staff who are older (50+ years) or immunocompromised are at high risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19 and may especially benefit from a second booster.
- There is some evidence that the protection from the first booster may decrease over time, and a second booster restores that protection.

**Q-7: What are the risks of a second booster dose?**

**A:** COVID-19 vaccines, including boosters, are safe. Over 600,000 people 60 years and older in Israel received a second booster dose of the Pfizer vaccine, and there were no new safety concerns.

**Q-8: Will the second booster be effective against new variants?**

**A:** The second booster is the same vaccine as the primary series and second booster vaccines. The current vaccine when given as a booster provides a broad immune response and protection against Omicron. There are studies underway to study Omicron-specific boosters and efforts to determine the future formulations of COVID vaccines.

**Q-9: Can the second booster be administered any time in the fourth month following the first booster?**

**A:** The second booster dose should be given at least 4 months following the first booster dose. Doses administered up to 4 days before the minimum interval, known as the 4-day grace period, are considered valid.

**Q-10: Should nursing homes consider accommodations in which areas HCP can work if they are not up to date on their vaccinations due to an exemption?**

**A:** If HCP are not up to date on their vaccinations due to exemptions, they are able to work in any role at a nursing home; however, it is recommended to consider lower-risk assignments if possible (e.g., not working with unvaccinated or severely immunocompromised residents who are less likely to have a robust immune response to vaccination). HCP not up to date on their vaccinations with exemptions need to be tested twice weekly (unless they recently recovered from COVID-19), and N95s are recommended as source control; however, that is not a requirement.

**Q-11: How do we report in NHSN that a resident was administered the second booster?**

**A:** NHSN is in the process of adding reporting options for the second booster. Currently there is only an option to report the first booster for the weekly vaccination reporting.

**Q-12: What is the dosage for the second booster?**

**A:** The dosage for the second booster is the same as the dosage for the first booster. Pfizer 30ug or Moderna 50ug (half dose).

**Q-13: What is the definition of “fully vaccinated” when it comes to screening visitors?**

**A:** Refer to the footnotes on the last page of AFL 22-07 for the definition of fully vaccinated. It refers to the CDC definition which is currently “A person is fully vaccinated two weeks after receiving all recommended doses in the primary series of their COVID-19 vaccination.”

**PPE Questions & Answers**

**Q-14: Can COVID-19 positive HCP working in the red zone due to critical staffing shortages wear surgical masks rather than N95s since the residents and HCP cannot get “more COVID”?**

**A:** No. As a reminder, COVID positive HCP returning to work before completing their isolation period can only occur when there is a critical staffing shortage and should be a last resort. HCP are required to wear appropriate transmission-based precautions based on the resident’s condition, therefore an N95 would be required.

**Cohorting Questions & Answers**

**Q-15: Can our nursing home separate or cohort unvaccinated vs. fully vaccinated residents?**

**A:** No, we do not recommend cohorting residents based on vaccination status. The residents who are not up to date with their vaccinations are more vulnerable and more likely to transmit to others, so it would be riskier to cohort them all together.

**Testing Questions & Answers**

**Q-16: If a staff member with an approved exemption only works as needed because of on-call status, how often does the staff member need to be tested?**

**A:** Per AFL 21-28.3 (<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CHCQ/LCP/Pages/AFL-21-28.aspx>) under the section “Updated Routine Diagnostic Screening Testing of Unvaccinated Exempt or Booster Eligible HCP,” HCP who are not up to date on their vaccinations that work no more than one shift per week must undergo weekly SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic screening testing, and the testing should occur within 48 hours before their shift. If an HCW works less often than weekly, the individual must undergo SARS-CoV-2 diagnostic screening testing within 48 hours before each shift.

**Q: Do negative tests need to be reported in NHSN?**

**A:** Per the April 6, 2022, CDPH letter to entities performing COVID-19 testing, effective April 4, 2022, reporting of non-positive results (negative, indeterminate, etc.) is no longer required. This applies to long-term care facilities as well as other settings. The letter can be found at: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/NCorona2019/docs/CDPHLabResultReportingChanges.pdf>.