COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

Gerardo Pinedo
County Administrator

625 Court Street, Room 202 ▪ Woodland, CA 95695
www.yolocounty.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE   Contact: Beth Gabor
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Second Bivalent COVID-19 mRNA Vaccine Available for 65+ and Immunocompromised

(Woodland, CA) – Older adults and immunocompromised persons are now able to receive a second bivalent mRNA vaccine dose against COVID-19.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends a second bivalent (also known as Omicron-specific or updated) dose for those 65 years old and older if at least 4 months have passed since their first bivalent dose. The CDC also recommends a second bivalent dose for immunocompromised persons if at least 2 months have passed since their first bivalent dose.

The protection provided by COVID-19 vaccines decreases over time, especially in older adults and those with weakened immune systems. A second bivalent dose increases this protection, helping to prevent infection, severe disease, hospitalization and death.

A single dose of bivalent COVID-19 vaccine is recommended for everyone 6 to 65 years old who is not immunocompromised. Only 28% of persons 5 years old and older living in Yolo County have received a bivalent dose, putting them at increased risk of severe COVID-19 disease.

For children 6 months to 5 years old who are already vaccinated, a bivalent dose may be recommended, depending on age and which vaccine product was used for previous doses. Young children continue to require multiple doses to establish initial protection against COVID-19. Consult with your child's healthcare provider to make sure your child is up to date with COVID-19 vaccines.

If you are not vaccinated against COVID-19, getting vaccinated is now easier than ever. A single bivalent dose of mRNA vaccine is now all that is needed to be considered fully vaccinated for persons 6 years old and older. Monovalent (original) mRNA COVID-19 vaccine doses are no longer available in the United States.

To find a COVID-19 vaccine near you, visit: myturn.ca.gov. Healthcare providers and retail pharmacies continue to provide COVID-19 vaccines for free. Yolo County Public Health also provides free vaccines; visit yolocounty.org/covid for clinic locations and hours.

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