



# COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Updated COVID Vaccine Offers Protection For Fall & Winter

(Woodland, CA) –The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends an updated COVID-19 vaccine for individuals aged 6 months and older. This updated vaccine, specifically designed to target the circulating XBB omicron subvariants, is expected to be available as early as next week.

The Yolo County Health and Human Services Agency’s Public Health Branch recommends that everyone 6 months and older get the updated vaccine and strongly urges our most vulnerable residents, including individuals over the age of 65, those with underlying conditions, and those with compromised immune systems, to prioritize their health by getting the updated vaccine. COVID vaccines reduce the risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death; reduce the risk of Long COVID; reduce the risk of infection; and shorten the duration of infection. The virus that causes COVID-19 is always changing, and protection from COVID-19 vaccines declines over time. Receiving an updated COVID-19 vaccine restores protection overall and adds protection against the variants currently circulating.

This is the first fall and winter virus season, where vaccines are available for the three viruses responsible for most hospitalizations – COVID-19, RSV, and flu. Eligible residents are strongly encouraged to receive seasonal flu and RSV vaccines to help avoid a “Tripledeemic” this fall and winter. For more information on the updated COVID-19 vaccine and local vaccination sites, please visit [www.yolocounty.org/immunizations](http://www.yolocounty.org/immunizations) or call (530) 666-8552.

“The recent increase in COVID-19 activity is a reminder that COVID-19 has not gone away,” said Yolo County Public Health Officer Dr. Aimee Sisson. “Vaccines provide the best protection against hospitalization and death from COVID-19. I recommend that everyone 6 months and older gets the updated COVID vaccine to renew their protection and expand it to the variants circulating now.”

### Frequently Asked Questions:

**Who can get the updated COVID-19 vaccine?** The CDC recommends that anyone aged 6 months and older get the updated COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of whether they received the original vaccines.

**Who should get the updated COVID-19 vaccine?** All persons 6 months and older, with rare exceptions, should get the new COVID vaccine. Older residents and individuals with underlying health conditions or

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weakened immune systems are especially encouraged to get vaccinated within the next month. The vaccine is fully covered by Medicare and other insurers.

**When should I get the updated COVID vaccine?** If your last COVID vaccine was at least 2 months ago and you have not had COVID-19 in the last 3 months, now is a good time to get the updated vaccine. Additionally, everyone 6 months and older is strongly encouraged to receive their seasonal flu vaccine before late October. Infants should get vaccinated against RSV, and older adults and people with underlying health conditions should talk to their doctor about getting vaccinated against RSV.

**Can I get the flu shot and the updated COVID vaccine at the same time?** Yes. According to the CDC, it is safe and effective to conveniently receive both COVID-19 and flu vaccines at the same time.

**Where can I get the updated COVID-19 vaccine?** COVID-19 vaccines will be available through medical providers and pharmacies, similar to other vaccines. Uninsured individuals will be able to get free vaccinations through community health centers listed here: [www.yolocounty.org/immunizations](http://www.yolocounty.org/immunizations)

**Is the updated vaccine free?** All health insurance plans, including Medi-Cal and Medicare, fully cover the new COVID vaccine in-network. Uninsured individuals will be able to access the new vaccine for free through community health centers listed here: [www.yolocounty.org/immunizations](http://www.yolocounty.org/immunizations)