



TOMÁS J. ARAGÓN, MD, DrPH  
Director and State Public Health Officer

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
California Department of Public Health



GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor

November 9, 2021

Subject: Booster Messaging

Dear Local Health Jurisdictions and Providers,

This letter clarifies the State's expectations for administering COVID-19 vaccine boosters and patient eligibility. Providers should employ the following guidance and criteria:

1. Proactively outreach to patients who:
  - Are age 65 and older
  - Have underlying medical conditions
  - Received the J&J vaccine (single dose)
2. Allow patients to self-determine their risk of exposure. Do not turn a patient away who is requesting a booster if:
  - **The patient is 18 or over and has met the 6-month original vaccination series time period for the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine or it has been at least 2 months since their J&J vaccine.**

The patient's assessment of risk exposure may include, but is not limited to, those who work with the public or live with someone who works with the public, live or work with someone at high risk of severe impact of COVID, live in geographic areas that have been heavily impacted by COVID, reside in high transmission areas, live in a congregate setting, experience social inequity, or other risk conditions as assessed by the individual.
3. For pharmacies, due to waning immunity, prioritize Long Term Care facility partnerships to provide COVID-19 vaccine boosters to those in Skilled Nursing Facilities and Assisted Living Facilities.



**In addition, providers should not miss any opportunity to vaccinate the unvaccinated or provide boosters by offering vaccine during routine or non-routine visits to medical offices, clinics, pharmacies, and hospitals.**

Thank you for your continued partnership and the critical role you play in keeping Californians safe as we enter the winter and holiday season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tomás Aragón". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tomás J. Aragón, MD, DrPH  
Director and State Public Health Officer  
California Department of Public Health