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To promote and protect the health and well-being of Kings County residents through education, prevention, and intervention.

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COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots Now Available

Hanford, CA – On Friday, September 24, 2021 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a statement recommending booster shots of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine in certain populations. The recommendation follows emergency use authorization on September 22, 2021 by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) of the Pfizer-BioNTech booster dose.

The Kings County Department of Public Health (KCDPH) is now administering Pfizer BioNTech booster shots to eligible populations. Individuals who received the Pfizer vaccine at least 6 months ago **and** fall into one of the following groups are eligible:

- People 65 and older,
- People living in a long-term care facility, and
- People 50-64 with underlying medical conditions **should** receive the booster.

Additionally;

- People age 18 – 49 with underlying medical conditions, and
- People who are at higher risk of COVID-19 exposure and transmission due to occupational or institutional setting **may** receive the booster.

Individuals who meet eligibility criteria must bring proof of Pfizer vaccination dates to their appointment.

Booster doses are not yet available for individuals who received the Moderna or Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccine. The FDA and CDC will continue to review booster dose data for these vaccine products as it becomes available.

Additional dose vs. booster dose: For most individuals age 12 and older, the primary Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine series consists of a two-dose regimen 21 days apart, with a booster dose 6 months after the primary series for certain eligible populations age 18 and older (as outlined above). However, for individuals age 12 and older who are immunocompromised, the primary Pfizer series may consist of three doses, in order to reach comparable levels of protection demonstrated in the general population. In immunocompromised individuals, dose one and two are administered 21 days apart, and dose three an additional 28 days later.

If you have an underlying medical condition, please talk to your medical provider about whether a booster or a 3-dose primary series is right for you, based on your personal health history. Underlying medical conditions include but are not limited to:

- Cancer
- Chronic Kidney Disease
- Chronic Lung disease, including COPD, moderate-to-severe asthma, interstitial lung disease, cystic fibrosis, and pulmonary hypertension
- Dementia
- Diabetes
- Down Syndrome
- Heart Conditions
- HIV infection
- Liver Disease
- Overweight and Obesity
- Stroke or cerebrovascular disease
- Sickle cell disease or thalassemia
- Solid organ or blood stem cell transplant

It is strongly suggested that individuals make an appointment for their booster dose, rather than relying on walk-in availability. Visit <https://myturn.gov> or call (833) 422-4255 to make an appointment.

The Department continues to urge the public to take all COVID-19 prevention measures appropriate for them:

- Get vaccinated; to schedule an appointment visit: <https://myturn.ca.gov/>
- Wear a face covering, regardless of your vaccine status, to protect yourself and those who cannot get vaccinated at this time
- Get tested if you have COVID-19 symptoms
- Stay home if you are sick

Visit www.kingscovidinfo.com for current information and guidance.