



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Get Vaccinated in Preparation for Fall/Winter Virus Season

Santa Cruz, Calif.—The updated Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 vaccines have been approved by the FDA and recommended by the CDC for everyone 6 months and older. Officially known as the 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccine, they are now available in Santa Cruz County.

In alignment with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Santa Cruz County Public Health Officials urge everyone 6 months and older to stay up to date with the newest COVID-19 vaccine.

“Staying up to date on the COVID-19 vaccine will be an essential tool to help residents stay healthy,” said Santa Cruz County Health Officer Dr. Lisa Hernandez. “The updated vaccines provide the best available protection against severe illness caused by current variants.”

The updated COVID-19 vaccines will especially help protect those who are most at risk of developing severe COVID-19 complications, such as older adults, people who smoke, or anyone with chronic conditions, like asthma, diabetes, or heart disease. COVID-19 vaccination also decreases the risk of [Long COVID](#), which can cause prolonged symptoms.

This virus season, vaccines are available for the three viruses responsible for most hospitalizations – COVID-19, RSV, and flu. RSV vaccines are approved for people ages 60

years and older. These vaccines can be given safely at the same time and are available at health care providers, pharmacies, and clinics. Contact your health care provider or visit www.vaccines.gov to schedule your vaccine appointment.

In addition to vaccines, the best defense against COVID-19 and other winter viruses starts with good prevention.

- Stay Home if You're Sick, Test for COVID and Treat if Needed
- Consider Wearing a Mask in Indoor Public Places
- Wash Your Hands
- Cover Your Cough or Sneeze.

For local COVID-19 information go to www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus or call (831) 454-4242 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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