



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.

July 14, 2022



Benita McLarin, FACHE
DIRECTOR

Matthew Willis, MD, MPH
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

Lisa M. Santora, MD, MPH
DEPUTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

3240 Kerner Boulevard
San Rafael, CA 94901
415 473 4163 T
415 473 2326 F
415 473 3232 TTY
marinhhs.org/public-health

PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

COVID-19 Mortality Prevention | Long Term Care Facility Residents – 2nd Boosters

This advisory is intended for facilities and clinicians who care for residents of Long-Term Care Facilities (including Residential Care Facilities for the Elderly [RCFE] and Skilled Nursing Facilities [SNF]). Marin County Public Health urges all RCFE and SNF residents receive a 2nd booster immediately.

Background

COVID-19 community transmission rates in Marin County have remained high since April. This has been associated with continued outbreaks in long term care facilities and increased mortality among facility residents. BA.4 and BA.5 – subvariants of the Omicron variant – now make up 80 percent of COVID-19 cases in the U.S. Early indications signal that BA.5 is escaping immunity, including from prior infections and vaccination. It is critical that vulnerable populations, especially LTCF, stay up to date and [receive a 2nd booster](#). Residents who have received their 2nd booster are significantly less likely to become infected during COVID-19 outbreaks at facilities.

Marin County Public Health reviews all COVID-19 related hospitalizations and deaths. Local data shows that persons 50 and older without a 2nd booster are 3.3 times more likely to be hospitalized for COVID-19. Persons 65 and older without a 2nd booster are 4 times more likely to be hospitalized.

Among 425 LTCF residents infected with COVID-19 since April 29, 2022, 72% (318) did not have a second booster. During the same period, 8 out of 11 facility residents who had a COVID-related death did not have a second booster. In the past 90 days, the case fatality rate is 0.0% among persons with a 2nd booster. The case fatality rate among those without a 2nd booster is 0.2% in persons infected with COVID-19 who are 50 years and older and 0.42% in those who are 65 and older.

Actions Requested of Facilities and Providers

1. LTC facilities should ensure that all residents receive their 2nd boosters immediately if consistent with their advance care plan:
 - a. SNF medical directors should review COVID-19 vaccine records for all patients and develop a plan with staff to increase 2nd booster vaccination rates among residents.
 - b. SNFs should enter COVID-19 vaccination records into the [California Immunization Registry](#) (CAIR2) on the date of administration.
2. LTC facilities can request on site vaccination support from Marin County Public Health [using this form](#).

3. LTC facilities should encourage eligible staff (adults ages ≥ 50 years and persons with moderate to severe immunocompromise ages ≥ 12 years) to receive their 2nd boosters.
4. LTC facilities should assess resident COVID-19 vaccine status at time of admission.
 - a. Residents can access their COVID-19 vaccination record at <https://myvaccinerecord.cdph.ca.gov/>.
 - b. SNF sites should provide COVID-19 vaccinations to ensure new residents are up to date, including 2nd boosters.
 - c. RCFE sites should prioritize accessing COVID-19 vaccinations for new residents who are not up to date, including 2nd boosters (incl. referral to vaccine provider or Marin County Public Health).
5. Healthcare providers should review vaccine records of patients who live in LTC facilities and provide or arrange for 2nd boosters immediately if consistent with their advance care plan.
 - a. Hospitals / emergency departments should review COVID-19 vaccine records prior to discharge of patients to LTCF and provide COVID-19 vaccines to patients who are not up to date.
6. LTCF should provide education and support to staff to maximize the proportion of staff who are fully up to date with vaccination.

References

[Neutralizing antibody activity against 21 SARS-CoV-2 variants in older adults vaccinated with BNT162b2](#) (July 14, 2022)

Booster vaccines can elicit broad neutralizing antibodies against a large number of SARS-CoV-2 variants in this clinically vulnerable cohort.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). [Rates of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths by Vaccination Status](#).

Among people 50 years and older, vaccinated people with a primary series and one booster dose had 4x greater risk of dying from COVID-19 compared to people vaccinated with a primary series and 2 or more boosters.