Changes to J&J Guidance and CDPH Booster Requirements

1. Due to the risk of Thrombosis with Thrombocytopenia Syndrome (TTS), a rare but serious adverse event, the **CDC now recommends the use of mRNA vaccines over the Janssen/J&J vaccine for all vaccine-eligible persons.** Vaccine providers should start the two-dose mRNA vaccine series even if there is uncertainty about how the patient will receive their second dose; setting alone should not be a reason to offer the J&J vaccine. However, J&J may be offered in some situations as described below:

   - When there is a contraindication to mRNA vaccines (e.g., severe allergic reaction after a previous dose or to a component of an mRNA vaccine)
   - When a person would otherwise remain unvaccinated for COVID-19 due to limited access to vaccines.
   - When a person wants to receive J&J despite the safety concerns identified

For more information, please review the CDC’s [Interim Clinical Considerations webpage](#).

2. As Omicron spreads, it is important that providers encourage all eligible patients to get a booster, especially those over 50 or those with significant underlying health conditions.

3. CDPH **has updated the following Health Officer Orders to require booster doses for all eligible persons by February 1, 2022.** Workers subject to these Orders who have not received a booster yet must begin testing for COVID-19 starting 12/27/21 and continue until they are boosted. Testing must occur **twice weekly** in acute health care and long-term care settings, and at least **once weekly** for workers in other settings covered by the Orders. CDPH **strongly recommends** that all workers in Skilled Nursing Facilities (including those that are fully vaccinated and boosted) undergo at least twice weekly screening testing.

   - [State Public Health Officer Order (8/5/21)](#) Health care worker vaccine requirement
   - [State Public Health Officer Order (8/19/21)](#) State and local correctional facilities and detention centers health care worker vaccination requirement
   - [State Public Health Order (9/28/21)](#) Adult care facilities and direct care worker vaccine requirement

4. Please also see AFL 21-34.1: [Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Requirement for Healthcare Personnel (HCP)](#) (This AFL supersedes AFL 21-34)