



## 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)