

# HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES, PUBLIC HEALTH

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Solano Public Health expands eligibility for Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine booster to everyone age 16 and older; offers guidance on celebrating the Winter Holidays safely

SOLANO COUNTY — The Solano County Department of Health and Social Services, Public Health division, in accordance with state and national guidance, is expanding COVID-19 vaccine booster eligibility to individuals age 16 and older in Solano County.

The Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup – following an amendment to the Emergency Use Authorization from the US Food and Drug Administration – recommended expanding eligibility for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine booster dose to everyone age 16 and older who are at least six months out after completing their primary vaccination series for COVID-19.

"Vaccination remains the most effective methods for fighting the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic," said Bela T. Matyas, M.D., M.P.H., Solano County Public Health Officer. "As people gather to celebrate the holidays, getting a booster shot will help provide continued protection against COVID-19, especially with both the delta and omicron variants continuing to spread in communities."

Parents and guardians who are interested in getting their teen vaccinated can access the Pfizer booster shots at the mass vaccine clinic at Solano County Fairgrounds, located at 900 Fairgrounds Drive in Vallejo, between now and December 18, 2021 or check with their healthcare provider to schedule their booster appointment. Visit the Public Health vaccine website for clinic details and updates on future vaccine clinics at the Solano County Fairgrounds at <a href="https://www.SolanoCounty.com/COVIDvaccine">https://www.SolanoCounty.com/COVIDvaccine</a> and on the Public Health Facebook page, <a href="https://www.Facebook.com/SolanoCountyPH">https://www.Facebook.com/SolanoCountyPH</a> and <a href="https://www.Facebook.com/SolanoCountyPH">https://www.Facebook.com/Sol

### **GENERAL GUIDANCE TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON SAFELY**

When it comes to staying safe this holiday season, consider the following tips, including:

#### **Get vaccinated**

- Vaccines are our best protection against infection. Vaccines are safe and effectively reduce risk of severe illness, hospitalization, and death.
- Children ages 5 through 11 are eligible for the pediatric COVID-19 vaccine; adolescents age 16-17 are eligible to get a Pfizer booster shot; and adults 18+ are eligible to get a booster shot provided it has been six months from their second dose of the vaccine series or two months from their Johnson & Johnson dose.
- Everyone 6 months and older should get the flu shot to protect children and families from the flu.

## SOLANO COUNTY HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES, PUBLIC HEALTH

### Stay home if you are sick

■ Do not attend celebrations or participate in activities if you feel sick, or if you have come into close contact with someone who has COVID-19 and you are not yet fully vaccinated.

#### Wear a face mask

Consider wearing a face mask indoors, especially if you are not fully vaccinated and/or are in a large private gathering where the vaccine status of all individuals is not known. Additionally, it is recommended to wear a face mask around individual with a compromised immune system.

## **Travel safely**

- It is recommended that individuals delay travel if they are not vaccinated. If traveling with unvaccinated family members, avoid crowds as much as possible and wear a face mask.
- Remember to bring your face mask when traveling, as it is required for all individuals on public transit, regardless of vaccination status.

Continue to monitor yourself for COVID-19 symptoms, including if you do not feel well or you learn that someone you had close contact with tested positive, get tested for COVID-19. Visit the Public Health website for free testing site locations.

### WHERE TO GET VACCINATED FOR COVID-19 DOSES, FLU SHOTS AND BOOSTERS

#### **Solano County Fairgrounds Mass Vaccine Clinic**

Solano County is administering the pediatric COVID-19 vaccine to individuals **age 5 or older**, booster shots for everyone age **16 or older**, as well as regular doses and flu shots. The mass vaccination clinic operates Wednesday – Saturday from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Clinics are walk-in and/ or appointment based. To make an appointment, eligible residents can sign up at <a href="https://www.bit.ly/solanomassvax">www.bit.ly/solanomassvax</a>. Those requiring registration assistance should call (800) 672-0150.

#### **Pop-Up Clinics**

For additional vaccine clinics throughout the County, visit https://www.SolanoCounty.com/COVIDvaccine.

#### **COVID-19 INFORMATION**

- For guidance on celebrating holiday traditions safely during COVID-19, visit the <u>Guidance for Safer Holiday Social Interactions</u>.
- Homebound individuals interested in requesting an in-home vaccination appointment are encouraged to call the COVID-19 vaccine line at (707) 784-8655 for scheduling assistance.
- Residents without transportation to and from vaccine sites hosted by Solano County are urged to call the COVID-19 vaccine line at (707) 784-8655 and arrange for a **free ride** through Uber.
- For vaccine clinics available throughout the State, visit <a href="https://MyTurn.Ca.Gov">https://MyTurn.Ca.Gov</a>
- For recent local COVID-19 health information, including the number of COVID-19 cases in Solano County as reflected on the COVID-19 dashboard, visit www.SolanoCounty.com/COVID19

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