

VACCINE FAQ – COVID-19 AND OTHER RESPIRATORY ILLNESSES

Riverside University Health System – Public Health

- Who is eligible for the COVID-19 Vaccine?
 - Eligibility is aimed to be broad and to take into account age and certain risk factors. Individuals who have never been vaccinated, those 65 years and older, and infants who are 6 to 23 months are at higher risk for severe COVID-19 illness and hospitalization and should receive the most updated vaccine formula dose. Individuals with certain medical conditions, especially those affecting the heart, breathing, or kidneys, are also eligible for vaccine doses regardless of age. A full list of risk factors is here.
 - Resource: [CDPH - Populations at Risk](#)
 - A full list of who is eligible for COVID-19, Influenza, and RSV Vaccine:

Age/Condition	COVID-19	Influenza	RSV
Children 	• All 6-23 months • All 2-18 years with risk factors or never vaccinated against COVID-19 • All who are in close contact with others with risk factors¹ • All who choose protection¹	• All 6 months and older	• All younger than 8 months² • All 8-19 months with risk factors
Pregnancy 	• All who are planning pregnancy, pregnant, postpartum or lactating	• All who are planning pregnancy, pregnant, postpartum or lactating	• 32-36 weeks gestational age^{2,3}
Adults 	• All 65 years and older • All younger than 65 years with risk factors • All who are in close contact with others with risk factors • All who choose protection	• All	• All 75 years and older³ • All 50-74 years with risk factors³

1. COVID-19 vaccine is available for persons 6 months and older.
2. Protect infants with either prenatal RSV vaccine or infant dose of nirsevimab or clesrovimab.
3. RSV vaccination during pregnancy or for adults is currently recommended once rather than annually.

[Public Health for All Vaccine Recommendations](#)

- Are their particular occupations that may recommend or require the COVID-19 vaccine or other respiratory virus vaccine?
 - There are occupations where risk is higher for the community that the industry serves or where exposure is more likely. If you are a healthcare worker, caregiver, or working with people with compromised immune systems the respiratory virus vaccines that include an updated COVID-19 vaccine, a seasonal influenza, and a TDAP (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis) vaccine every 10 years (or as needed in pregnancy) are strongly recommended by Public Health. Employees, interns, volunteers or contractors at specific businesses or training programs should check with those businesses/training programs for specific vaccine requirements and protection strategies.

- Where can I get the updated COVID-19 Vaccine, or the seasonal Flu vaccine? Are these the same places for other respiratory vaccines (such as RSV or pneumonia)?
 - Updated COVID-19 or Seasonal Influenza vaccines and the other respiratory virus vaccines like RSV or pneumonia may be found with your primary doctor, your medical group, your preferred pharmacy, or clinic. Eligible patients can also utilize Public Health immunizations clinics: [Public Health Vaccine Clinic Schedule](#) or visit myturn.ca.gov
- With the West Coast Health Alliance (WCHA) recommendations, will my health insurance cover my vaccine costs?
 - California has joined the West Coast Health Alliance (WCHA) to increase consistency of recommendations across states and increase public confidence. CDPH and the WCHA will continue to review new information and will update recommendations as needed.
 - These recommendations are the official recommendations of CDPH, as required under Assembly Bill 144 (2025, California Health and Safety Code section 120164). This means vaccines will continue to be covered by [health plans \(PDF\)](#) (including [Medi-Cal managed care plans \(PDF\)](#)) and insurance companies, in most instances. It may not apply to Medicare Advantage plans or to specialized health care service plans. Visit the [Public Health for All Vaccines Questions & Answers](#) page to learn more about access.
 - Resource: [CDPH - Vaccines](#) or [CDPH Public Health For All Vaccines For All](#)

*We thank you for your continued cooperation and commitment to keeping our community safe.
Together, we can ensure a healthy environment for all.*