



10877 Conductor Blvd.,
Suite 400 Sutter Creek,
California 95685 Phone
(209) 223-6407
Fax (209) 223-1562

**FOR IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

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Contact: Diana Evensen, MSPH
Amador County Public Health
Public Information Officer

Amador COVID-19 Update: Bivalent Boosters

Amador County, CA – Bivalent COVID-19 boosters are now available in Amador County:

- **Moderna bivalent booster:** for individuals 18 years of age and older.
- **Pfizer bivalent booster:** for individuals 12 years of age and older.

The updated boosters are "bivalent", meaning they increase immunity against the original coronavirus strain while also protecting against the newer Omicron subvariants. The updated boosters reduce the most severe outcomes of COVID-19, such as hospitalization, long COVID, and death. COVID-19 bivalent variant vaccines should be administered as a booster no sooner than two months after a prior dose of COVID-19 vaccine. Updated boosters for those younger than 12 years old are expected in the coming months.

To schedule a vaccine appointment visit the myturn.ca.gov website or call 1-833-422-4255. COVID-19 vaccine clinics will be offered on Tuesdays from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM and on Thursdays from 1 PM to 4 PM at the Health and Human Services building. Appointments are prioritized; walk-ins must arrive at least ½ hour before the clinic end time. Retail pharmacies also continue to offer COVID vaccines, check the vaccines.gov website for availability. To schedule a vaccination for homebound individuals, call Public Health at (209) 223-6407.

To better align state COVID-19 guidance with the most current federal recommendations, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is ending COVID-19 policies that required weekly COVID-19 testing for unvaccinated individuals in high-risk workplaces and schools. Health care facilities, other congregate settings and schools will no longer be required to administer weekly COVID-19 testing of unvaccinated and under vaccinated workers. The changes take effect Saturday, September 17, 2022. The state's vaccination and booster and masking requirements for employees in healthcare, correctional health, and adult residential settings remain in effect.

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