

San Francisco Health Service System Health Service Board

COVID-19 Update

September 8, 2022

SFHSS Specific Data — Vaccines & Boosters

Per the CDC, the definition of fully vaccinated does not include a booster. Completion of primary series depends on which vaccine you received. To check if you should receive additional boosters, visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html>

Test Categories	Blue Shield of California as of 8/30	Health Net As of 8/19	Kaiser Permanente of California		UnitedHealthcare	
			Non-Medicare as of 8/21	Medicare as of 8/21	Non-Medicare as of 8/30	Medicare ^[1] as of 8/10
Primary Series Partial	1,557	17	747	58	509	— [2]
Primary Series Fully	28,552	277	47,011	13,205	769	14,711
Total	30,109	294	47,758	13,263	1,278	— [2]
Booster	20,499	249	35,418	11,877	670	11,947
Total Members	34,941	359	52,041	13,795	3,200	17,352

[1] UHC Medicare is counting the 2nd shot as a booster if the member received the J&J vaccine initially.

[2] UHC Medicare is no longer tracking "Partial", as these members are considered Unvaccinated.

SFHSS Specific Data — Hospitalizations

	Blue Shield of California	Health Net	Kaiser Permanente of California		UnitedHealthcare	
			Non-Medicare as of 6/30*	Medicare	Non-Medicare	Medicare
Hospitalization Cases	186	0	162	Not Available	301	301
In ICU	Not Available	N/A	35	Not Available	10	69
w/ a Ventilator	Not Available	N/A	Not Available	Not Available	4	30
Total Members	35,977	359	52,041	13,795	3,200	17,352

Data is from March 2020 to July 2022

**Report generated 8/3/22 and data through 6/30/22*

CDC recommends seeking treatment within 5 days of the onset of symptoms.

SFHSS Specific Data — COVID-19 Antiviral Treatments

Anyone who has tested positive for COVID and is at high risk for a serious case should immediately contact a health care provider and ask for one of the antiviral drug treatments available, which must be taken at the onset of COVID symptoms

Eligible individuals for treatment include:

- Tested positive for COVID
 - Unvaccinated or haven't had a booster shot
 - Pregnant women
 - People at least 65 years old
 - Anyone with a medical condition who are at high risk for serious illness
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- For more information contact your health care provider
 - Call the City's COVID resource center at 628-652-2700
 - Or visit <https://covid-19-test-to-treat-locator-dhhs.hub.arcgis.com/> to find a location that offers the treatments

Source: "S.F. health officials turned away thousands of life-saving COVID pills, now plead with public to use them", sfchronicle.com, April 6, 2022

SFHSS Specific Data — COVID Home Test Kits Reimbursements

Blue Shield of California	Health Net	Kaiser Permanente of California
6,755 Test kits dispensed	22 Test kits dispensed	Not available yet
UnitedHealthcare Non-Medicare	UnitedHealthcare Medicare*	
Not available yet	1,028 Test kits dispensed	

Data is from January 15 to July 2022.

*UHC Medicare – as of April 4, 2022, COVID Home Test Kits will be covered by Medicare, <https://www.cms.gov/newsroom/fact-sheets/medicare-covers-over-counter-covid-19-tests>

SFHSS Specific Data — COVID Home Test Kits (as of 8/30/2022)

On January 10, 2022, the Department of Labor (DOL), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Treasury Department released a series of FAQs under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Part 51. This was in response to the Biden-Harris administration’s directive to issue guidance requiring group health care plans and insurers to provide coverage of over-the-counter, in-home COVID-19 diagnostic tests.

Beginning January 15th, until the end of the Coronavirus Public Health Emergency, individuals can get up to eight (8) over-the-counter tests each month. If you purchase a test kit that includes two tests, that will count as two of your eight covered tests.

For the most up-to-date information on coverage of COVID Home Test Kits, visit SFHSS.org or your carrier website.

Carrier	Carrier Website for More Information on How to Submit for Reimbursement	Additional Notes
Blue Shield of California	https://www.blueshieldca.com/bsca/bsc/wcm/connect/sites/Sites_Content_EN/coronavirus/coverage-testing	No \$ cap on tests
Kaiser Permanente (Non-Medicare)	kp.org/coronavirus	Up to \$12 per test including shipping & sales tax
Kaiser Permanente (Medicare)	kp.org/coronavirus	Up to \$12 per test including shipping and sales tax
UnitedHealthCare (Non-Medicare)	myuhc.com	Up to 8 test available at no cost through myuhc.com — OptumRX Store
UnitedHealthCare (Medicare)	https://retiree.uhc.com/main/covid-19-update	Free at CMS participating pharmacies; member must provide red, white & blue Medicare card
Health Net	healthnet.com/COVID19	Up to \$12 dollars per test

NEWS BRIEF

Provided by: Aon

FDA Authorizes COVID-19 Boosters Targeting Omicron Variants

On Aug. 31, 2022, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [authorized](#) updated COVID-19 booster shots from Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech that target the dominant BA.4 and highly contagious BA.5 coronavirus Omicron subvariants. Both modified vaccines still target the original coronavirus strain.

The FDA authorized the Pfizer-BioNTech modified booster for people age 12 and older and the Moderna shot for those age 18 and older. According to the FDA, individuals who have completed their primary vaccination series at least two months prior are eligible for the updated shots.

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“As we head into fall and begin to spend more time indoors, we strongly encourage anyone who is eligible to consider receiving a booster dose with a bivalent COVID-19 vaccine to provide better protection against currently circulating variants.”

- FDA Commissioner Robert M. Califf, M.D.

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Health officials expect the updated boosters to provide increased protection against the BA.5 Omicron subvariant. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), BA.5 makes up nearly 90% of all [new COVID-19 cases](#) in the country.

Experts have said the updated vaccines will help protect older people and those who are immunocompromised.

What's Next?

The government has already started working on the fall rollout, which could begin in the next few days after the CDC's outside expert panel meets to make a final recommendation.

Pfizer-BioNTech has some doses ready to ship immediately and said it could deliver up to 15 million doses by Sept. 9. Additionally, the U.S. government has secured 105 million doses of Pfizer-BioNTech's updated shots and 66 million doses of Moderna's booster to help ward off a likely surge in COVID-19 infections as schools resume and Americans spend more time indoors.

As fall begins, health experts continue to emphasize the importance of [staying up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines and boosters. Individuals interested in learning more about COVID-19 booster shots should speak with their primary care provider.

