

January 2022

# LTC ACO NEWS



## SPECIAL EDITION

### LTC ACO would like to encourage both patients and providers to receive their COVID-19 booster!

As you know, the majority of the patients we care for are elderly and may not always mount a significant immune response even to the first two doses of the vaccines. That puts them at higher risk of contracting and possibly even dying from the virus. LTC ACO would like to support providers doing everything in their power to protect these vulnerable patients from infection.

Vaccinating and boosting long-term care facility residents and providers against COVID-19 is a crucial step in preventing the spread of the virus. In addition to the initial COVID-19 vaccine or vaccine series, the CDC and the FDA now recommend booster shots for all three initial COVID-19 vaccines: the Pfizer, Moderna, and J&J vaccine. Pfizer and Moderna boosters should be given at least 6 months after the second dose. J&J boosters should be given at least 2 months after the initial vaccine. For the booster dose, CDC now recommends Pfizer or Moderna, rather than J&J.



### The rationale for boosters?

Recent data show that protection from the vaccine wanes over time. Furthermore, initial vaccination (without a booster) is less effective against the newer variants such as delta and omicron. The CDC recommends the addition of a booster shot to increase protection from COVID-19. This is especially important for individuals at higher risk, including long-term care residents and those with occupational exposures.

- **Boosters are safe.** Having been administered to many millions of people already, with typical vaccine side effects that are similar to the original vaccination (and other vaccines we regularly receive).
- **Boosters are effective.** COVID-19 vaccines reduce the risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death.
- Current COVID-19 vaccines, once boosted, are effective against the widely circulating variants including delta and omicron.
- Receiving a booster shot is very effective at creating strong immunity, even greater than the initial vaccinations.
- The newer variants of the COVID-19 virus can only be stopped with higher immunity levels.



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**Reminder:** *Antibody testing is not recommended by CDC or other experts for vaccine decision-making or to assess immunity following natural infection or vaccination.*

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The booster vaccine will reduce the chance of you having a “breakthrough case” of catching and spreading COVID-19 even after the initial vaccination.

## “TWINDEMIC”: COVID-19 and INFLUENZA

It’s more important than ever for all residents and staff to be vaccinated both against the flu and COVID-19. These vaccines can be administered at the same visit, as recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and its Advisory Committee on Immunizations Practices (ACIP).

In summary, LTC ACO encourages all providers to receive their booster for their own well-being, the health of their patients, the safety of their colleagues and facilities, and to help achieve the unifying goal of reducing COVID-19’s deadly impact on our vulnerable elderly population.

Stay safe and well,

*Jason Feuerman*  
Jason Feuerman  
President

