

April 14, 2021

# More vaccines rolling in

**BY KYLE MARTIN**  
Daily Post Staff Writer

The Covid vaccine shortage could soon be easing. The federal government is expected to send Santa Clara County 250,000 doses by the end of next week, County Supervisor Joe Simitian told the Post yesterday.

The first vaccines from the feds ar-

rived yesterday. Simitian held a telephone town hall meeting on Sunday and a number of callers wanted to know how to get a vaccine. They had been searching online for appointments to no avail.

About 500,000 county residents have received both doses of the vaccine so far. The county has 1.5 million

adults. That means the county is about one-third of the way toward vaccinating every adult. The 250,000 doses will get the county to the half-way point in the vaccination effort.

“It’s a reminder as to why it was so important to stand up the capacity to administer the vaccine in large numbers now that we finally have a large

supply available,” Simitian said. “In order to get the vaccine out into the community you need three things — a location (for administering the shots); you need logistics and you need an adequate supply of the vaccine.”

Simitian said the new shipments will add to the 50,000-60,000 vaccines the

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# VACCINES

county received from the state through last week.

Simitian said the county has administered about 800,000 shots to date, though he added some shots were administered to people who work, but don't live, in the county.

The increased supply of vaccines is good news, Simitian said, but he added there "is still a lot of work to do."

And Simitian said the county has had the capacity to administer more vaccines than have been available from state and federal agencies since the vaccine first rolled out about five months ago.

He said that he expects the supply of vaccines coming from the state and feds will continue to improve.

"We need to keep doing ever better to reach folks who are harder to get to," including residents in the North County and other hard-hit areas in the county such as East San Jose and Gilroy, Simitian said.

Santa Clara County Executive Dr. Jeff Smith's office did not respond to a request for comment yesterday regarding vaccine distribution.

## Vaccines available to 16+

Vaccines will be available to everyone over 16 who live or work in the county.

Sign up for appointments through [scfreevax.org](http://scfreevax.org) or by calling (888) 334-1000.

People can also contact their doctor's office. For instance, PAMF members can book an appointment only through their My Health app or call (844) 987-6115. Kaiser, Stanford and El Camino Hospital have similar setups for getting an appointment, as do CVS and Walgreen's.

For many health care providers in the county, there's a "no wrong door" policy for getting a Covid vaccination, Simitian said during Sunday's town hall meeting. That means someone who gets their health care from PAMF can go to Kaiser or a county clinic for their shot, he said.

A woman listening to the town hall meeting shared a tip on getting vaccinated. Veterans, their spouses and their caregivers can get a shot at the VA Palo Alto clinic, even if they're not enrolled in VA health care.

Another option is to try to schedule a vaccine appointment at a retail pharmacy such as CVS or Walgreens. Those stores have been getting vaccine doses directly from the federal government and have become much bigger vaccine providers in recent weeks.

August 17, 2021

## Santa Clara County prepares for mass rollout of COVID-19 booster shots

by Kevin Forestieri

Uploaded: Tue, Aug 17, 2021



Santa Clara County is preparing for COVID-19 booster shots at its network of mass vaccination sites. Photo by Magali Gauthier.

Bracing for a surge in demand for booster shots to protect residents from highly contagious COVID-19 strains, Santa Clara County supervisors voted unanimously Tuesday on a plan to make doses widely available for all people living or working in the county.

The regulatory rules around booster shots are shifting fast, with the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) approving a third dose, or a booster shot, of the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines in immunocompromised individuals. The

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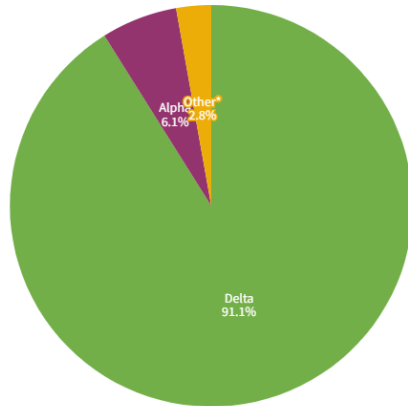
narrow group includes cancer patients and organ transplant recipients, who are at particularly high risk of catching COVID-19 and getting severely ill.

The expectation is that booster shots will soon be approved for use by older adults as well as those who have received the Janssen/Johnson & Johnson vaccine, quickly accelerating the demand for vaccines. Santa Clara County Supervisor Joe Simitian said there is a renewed interest and urgency for booster shots, and that people are on high alert. New COVID-19 cases in Santa Clara County have spiked to the highest number since late February, and the delta variant -- the vast majority of the new cases -- is far more contagious.

### Variant cases in Santa Clara County

Data as of Dec. 16

■ Delta ■ Alpha ■ Other\*



Source: Santa Clara County Public Health Department • \*The total captures cases of the beta, gamma, eta, iota, kappa, lambda, mu, omicron and zeta variants. Each variant in this category has a cumulative total below 200. • There have been 10 reported cases of the omicron variant. • Chart updated weekly.

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A Flourish chart

"While other countries have started offering COVID-19 boosters, we do not know when the FDA or other healthcare authorities will authorize them," Simitian wrote to colleagues. "There is, however, growing evidence that the question of booster shots is when, not if."

The plan, which county health officials will craft over the next month, will allow residents to get a booster shot across all county sites, with a "no wrong door" approach, meaning that residents can get a vaccine at county

sites regardless of insurance coverage or health care provider. It also calls for a close partnership with local hospitals, pharmacies and clinics to do their part "at the same level of efficiency" of the current vaccine. Simitian said support for the booster shots also requires strong communication with underserved populations who may be reluctant to come forward for a third shot.

"As we have seen throughout the country, there is too much confusion, distrust, and misinformation. Our residents will have questions, and they deserve answers," Simitian wrote.

The FDA's approval of booster shots in immunocompromised people came weeks after similar

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approvals in the United Kingdom and Israel, and months after France. The CDC found that those who received two shots of the Pfizer and Moderna vaccine were less likely to have an antibody response if they are undergoing cancer treatment or hemodialysis, and were far less likely to build an immunity if they received an organ transplant.

Two days after the FDA cleared the way for booster shots for those who are immunocompromised, which makes up about 2.7% of the nation's population, both Santa Clara and Los Angeles counties announced that they would provide booster shots in line with the approval. The CDC recommends that people with "moderately to severely compromised immune systems" wait at least 28 days between the second dose of the vaccine and the third dose.

Though the large majority of Santa Clara County residents are fully vaccinated, "breakthrough" cases in which fully vaccinated individuals contract COVID-19 are still a threat to those who are vulnerable. The CDC cited a study that found 40% of those hospitalized with breakthrough cases were immunocompromised, while another study in Israel found similar results at 44%.

In announcing the approval of booster shots, acting FDA Commissioner Janet Woodcock said in a statement that the action is meant to protect those who are particularly at risk of the disease as the country enters "yet another wave" of the pandemic. But she said the agency is not ready to recommend booster shots for the larger population.

"As we've previously stated, other individuals who are fully vaccinated are adequately protected and do not need an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine at this time," Woodcock said. "The FDA is actively engaged in a science-based, rigorous process with our federal partners to consider whether an additional dose may be needed in the future."