

# HEALTH OFFICER ORDER COVID-19 FAQ

## for Healthcare Personnel

### DID YOU KNOW?

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), California Department of Public Health (CDPH), and Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (LBDHHS) recommend that all healthcare personnel (HCP), including Emergency Medical Services (EMS) providers, stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccination.

The updated COVID-19 vaccines (2023-2024 Formula) provide better protection against the SARS-CoV-2 variants that currently account for most COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations in Long Beach and across the United States.

### WHAT DOES THE RESEARCH INDICATE?

- COVID-19 vaccination can prevent significant morbidity and mortality from the SARS-CoV-2 virus.
- Higher COVID-19 vaccination levels among HCP are associated with a lower risk of healthcare-associated COVID-19 cases in both patients and personnel.
- Higher COVID-19 vaccination rates among HCP reduces transmission of COVID-19, staff illness and absenteeism, and COVID-19 related illness and death.

### WHAT ARE SOME COVID-19 FACTS?

- COVID-19 is a contagious respiratory illness caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which continues to change.
- The best way to lower the risk of COVID-19 related hospitalization and death and reduce your chance of developing long COVID is by staying up to date with vaccination.
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved and authorized updated mRNA vaccines for 2023-2024 to provide better protection against the Omicron XBB.1.5 variant and its sub lineages (e.g., BA.2.86, EG.5).
- COVID-19 is mainly spread to others by droplets that are made when people with the virus talk, sneeze, or cough. Droplets enter the mouths and noses of those who are close by.
- People can pass the virus to others before they're aware that they're sick. Healthy adults can typically infect people 2 days before having symptoms through 5 to 10 days after feeling ill.

### WHY DO HCP VACCINATION MATTER?

- By getting vaccinated, HCP lower the risk for themselves, their colleagues, and their patients.
- Staying up to date with vaccination is important since COVID-19 virus strains are constantly changing.
- Prior COVID-19 vaccination may not adequately protect against the currently circulating variants.
- Higher rates of vaccination amongst HCP are associated with improved patient outcomes and fewer cases of COVID-19 amongst other staff members.
- Both hospitalization rates and healthcare personnel absenteeism were high during the recent COVID-19 pandemic, which significantly impacted hospital operations and capacity.

### WHAT ARE THE HCP VACCINATION COVERAGE LEVELS?

- Over 87% of HCP in the U.S. received the primary series of vaccination for COVID-19, however only 67% received a booster dose in the 2021-2022 season.
- On 9/11/23, the FDA approved the updated 2023-2024 COVID-19 vaccines from Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech for individuals 12 years of age and older and authorized emergency use for individuals 6 months through 11 years of age.
- As of 9/12/23, the CDC recommends an updated 2023-2024 Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine for everyone aged 6 months and older.