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Ramirez, Angelica

Public Comment

From: Jennifer Smith <jrsmith98@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 16, 2021 8:40 PM
To: sbcob; County Executive Office
Subject: Follow-up dose for immune compromised patients who took J&J (COVID update, 09/21/2021, item 21-00850, County Exec office)



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Dear Supervisors,

I urge Santa Barbara County to provide guidance to immune-compromised residents who received the J&J/Jansen COVID vaccine. It's frustrating to hear about boosters for the general population while this population waits in the wings. These patients, as advised, signed up for the first shot available earlier this year.

We are constantly hearing that immune-compromised patients remain vulnerable to hospitalization and death, which is why a supplemental dose is recommended for immune-compromised patients who took Pfizer and Moderna. This follow-up shot is intended to get immune-compromised patients to an equivalent level of immunity as the general population.

Without local or CDC guidance, providers refuse to provide any type of booster to immune-compromised patients who took the J&J/Jansen vaccine. I believe in evidence-based medicine, but due to the emergent nature of this pandemic, and due to the fact that the J&J group is always going to be a minority, we need public health officials to be more proactive to protect this vulnerable group. There is also ample data of the Astra Zeneca vaccine (which is similar to J&J) being supplemented with mRNA vaccines in Europe with considerable success.

My understanding is that various hospital groups across the United States are already advising immune-compromised J&J recipients to receive a follow-up dose of Pfizer or Moderna:

Texas Tech offering additional COVID-19 vaccine to J&J recipients
<https://kfoxtv.com/news/local/what-happens-now-johnson-johnson-vaccine>

UCSF/SF Public Health
" The San Francisco Department of Public Health already offers mRNA boosters to those who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine"
<https://missionlocal.org/2021/09/ucsf-grand-rounds-the-fourth-surge-delta-variant-boosters-and-more/>

See other expert opinions below:
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2021/08/17/johnson-johnson-booster-shots-guidance-leana-wen/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/29/opinion/johnson-vaccine-booster-shots.html>

If the County is not willing to issue formal guidance on the matter, I am hoping that the Public Health office could at least identify a medical provider or specific vaccine clinic opportunity to facilitate getting this group protected.

I am grateful for the County's good work throughout the pandemic.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
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