



COVID-19 Booster Shots – Call to Action

December 17, 2021

AMDA, the Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine strongly urges all PALTC facilities to promote and complete booster vaccinations in all eligible residents and staff. Here are the key facts:

- Booster shots are imperative to the safety of PALTC residents.
- Residents in PALTC facilities are particularly vulnerable to breakthrough infections and subsequent morbidity and mortality⁽¹⁾.
- Booster shots have been shown to increase immune response⁽¹⁾ and prevent infections, hospitalizations and deaths in patients over age 50⁽²⁾.
- Preliminary laboratory data show that a booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine leads to an increase of circulating antibodies' immune response to the Omicron variant, likely conferring a preserved immunologic response⁽³⁾.
- Data have shown that COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness and protection wane over time which leads to breakthrough infections^(4,5).
- Research shows that COVID-19 booster shots are both safe and effective⁽⁶⁾
- The CDC and FDA recommend COVID-19 booster shots for all adults⁽⁷⁾.

A multipronged approach to promote booster vaccination is most effective. AMDA recommends focusing on:

- Educating staff, residents, and families about the vital importance of booster shots to keep everyone in the facility safe.
- Providing active reminders, posters and non-monetary incentives that have been shown to increase vaccination and booster shots in PALTC⁽⁸⁾.
- Working with long-term care pharmacies to establish access and coordination of booster clinics to eliminate barriers to vaccination access.

The AMDA COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit provides educational information on COVID-19 vaccination, boosters and vaccine hesitancy. Use the poster and booster FAQ to get to your booster goal of completing booster shots for all eligible patients and staff.

<https://profile.paltc.org/COVID19-Toolkit>

References

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