

## COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO HEALTH AGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

## **PROVIDER HEALTH ADVISORY**

**Date:** October 31, 2022

Contact: Kristin Edler, PHN, kedler@co.slo.ca.us, 805-781-5500

## **Novavax COVID-19 Boosters Now Available at Public Health Department**

The Novavax COVID-19 vaccine has received emergency use authorization from the U.S. FDA and recommendation from the U.S. CDC to be given as a *first* booster dose. It was previously authorized for primary series only.

Adults who completed primary vaccination using any COVID-19 vaccine and have not received any previous booster dose(s) may receive a monovalent Novavax booster dose at least 6 months after completion of the primary series *if* they are unable to receive or are unwilling to receive an mRNA vaccine and would otherwise not receive a booster dose. The updated Pfizer or Moderna bivalent vaccines remain the preferred option for booster doses.

Novavax boosters are now **available by appointment** at Public Health Department clinics in Grover Beach, Paso Robles, and San Luis Obispo. To schedule a vaccine appointment, patients can call **805-781-5500**.

## **Quick Facts About the Novavax Booster**

- It is a protein subunit vaccine, common technology used to develop previous vaccines including the flu shot. Unlike Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, it does not use mRNA technology.
- It is a monovalent vaccine that targets the original strain of the SARS-CoV-2 virus.
- The Novavax booster has only been authorized as a *first* booster dose, so patients who have already been boosted are not eligible.
- Some may have a personal preference for the Novavax booster over the mRNA vaccines, even though the mRNA boosters (Pfizer and Moderna) have been updated and are considered more effective against COVID-19 variants circulating now.

Novavax fact sheet for health care providers: <a href="https://www.fda.gov/media/159897/download">www.fda.gov/media/159897/download</a>

For more information about COVID-19, visit: <a href="mailto:slopublichealth.org/covid19">slopublichealth.org/covid19</a>