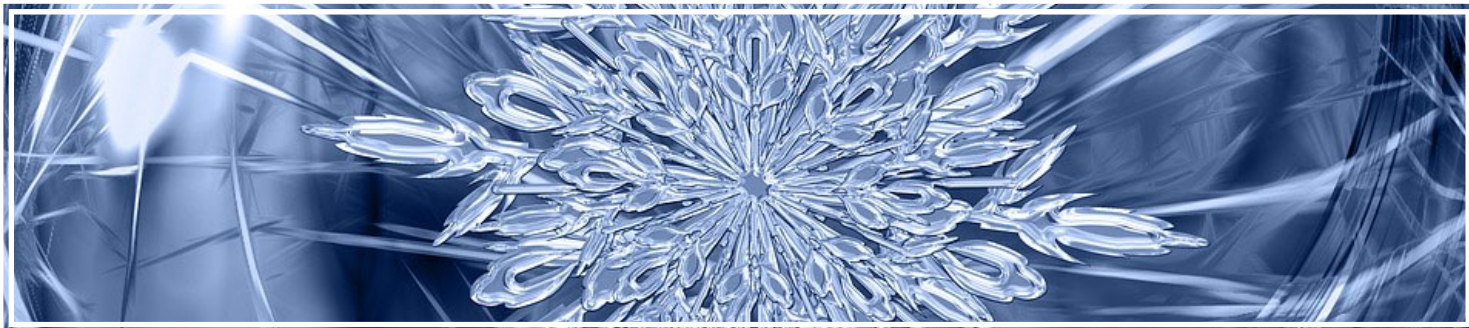


PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION



Get Boosted *Dr. Louis Katz, Medical Director*

Get boosted as soon as you are eligible—protect yourself and others from SARS-CoV-2 infection and illness

This is an easy recommendation to make because:

While COVID-19 vaccines remain effective in preventing severe disease for all recognized variants, that protection starts to decrease about 6 months after completing the primary series and its long-term duration is not known. It is effectively restored with a booster shot.

Clinical trials show that a booster shot increases the immune response from a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna primary series completed 6 months earlier or a J&J/Janssen single-dose vaccine 2 months earlier. Individuals boosted at 5-6 months remain incredibly well protected against severe illness, hospitalization, ICU admission, the need for advanced life support (ventilators) and death (all more than 90%). New information from an Israeli study shows that boosted vaccinees had 93% protection against **any infection** during the Delta surge.

The recent emergence of the Omicron variant further shows us the importance of up-to-date vaccination (that is the primary jabs **plus** the recommended booster) because Omicron can partially evade:

- the immunity provided by prior COVID infection;
- the immunity provided by 2 doses of an mRNA vaccine or a single Johnson and Johnson shot;
- the immunity provided by infection followed by vaccination (“hybrid immunity”);
- the therapeutic effect of two out of the four FDA authorized monoclonal antibody;

...Omicron does NOT evade the immunity from boosted vaccination.

In new studies during the December emergence of Omicron, unvaccinated persons have been compared to vaccinated people with boosters. Protection against any infection is almost 80% among *continued*



OUR MISSION:

The Scott County Health Department promotes, protects, and preserves health through leadership, services, education, and partnerships.

OUR VISION:

Scott County—
A safe and healthy community.



SPECIAL EVENTS

- *Scott County Board of Health Meeting, Scott County Administrative Center, 1st Floor Boardroom, 12:00 PM, Thursday, February 17, 2022*

Links

- [National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day](#)
- [PrEP Iowa— Power of Prevention](#)
- COVID-19 Booster Recommendations:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html>

Get Boosted, continued:

boosted individuals compared to the unvaccinated. Protection against the need for urgent care, emergency department visits and hospitalization is even higher. While the duration of follow up is short, future studies will tell us how persistent this immunity after boosters will be.

Beyond personal health, how does this inform public health practice? Boosted COVID-19 vaccination provides protection from SARS-CoV-2 ***infection***, even as the Omicron variant has dominated. Since you cannot give the virus to someone else if you are protected from infection, it follows that widespread boosted immunization in the population should protect those who cannot be effectively vaccinated and those who choose not to be vaccinated. Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccination—you will protect those with whom you have contact and you will protect the ability of healthcare and society to function.

National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day

February 7 is [National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day](#) (NBHAAD), a day to celebrate progress in HIV prevention, reduce HIV stigma, and encourage HIV testing and treatment among African American people. African Americans continue to be disproportionately affected by HIV compared to other racial/ethnic groups. One of the goals of NBHAAD is to reduce HIV-related disparities and increase testing, diagnoses and treatment.

HIV treatment helps people with HIV stay healthy and live longer. The Scott County Health Department is hosting a special HIV testing walk-in clinic on Monday, February 7th. When we work to overcome structural barriers to HIV testing, prevention, and treatment, we can #StopHIVTogether.

Help us raise awareness by sharing social media content using the #StopHIVTogether and #NBHAAD hashtag.



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