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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Johnson County Public Health explains updated COVID-19 Booster Recommendations**

**Johnson County, Iowa** – The recent emergence of the Omicron variant (B.1.1.529) further emphasizes the importance of vaccination, boosters, and prevention efforts needed to protect against COVID-19. Studies show after getting vaccinated against COVID-19, protection against the virus and the ability to prevent infection with variants may decrease over time. A booster shot increases the immune response which means people should have improved protection against COVID-19 infection.

Yesterday, CDC strengthened its booster recommendations and encouraged everyone 16 and older to receive a booster shot. Teens 16-17 years old can get a Pfizer booster and adults 18 years and older should get any of the authorized COVID-19 vaccines. More information is available on CDC's [website](#).

Sam Jarvis, Community Health Manager, said, "We continue to be encouraged by Johnson County residents' vaccination rates. 68.2% of our total population is fully vaccinated and roughly 45% of 5 to 11 year olds have had one dose or are fully vaccinated against COVID-19. We encourage anyone with questions to talk to their health care provider, pharmacist, or a member of our Johnson County Public Health Disease Prevention Team."

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