



Public Health Division

# County of Santa Cruz

## HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

POST OFFICE BOX 962, 1080 Emeline Ave., SANTA CRUZ, CA 95061-0962

TELEPHONE: (831) 454-4000 FAX: (831) 454-4488 TDD: Call 711

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**Contact:** Corinne Hyland, PIO

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**Phone:** (831) 566-4370

## PFIZER-BIONTECH COVID-19 VACCINE RECEIVES FDA APPROVAL

**Santa Cruz County, Calif.** – Today, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, which has protected millions of Americans from severe illness and death under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). The vote affirms that the vaccine meets the highest standards of safety, effectiveness and manufacturing quality.

For Santa Cruz County residents who have been awaiting full approval, this is welcome news. Santa Cruz County Public Health urges everyone who has not yet been vaccinated and is eligible to seek a vaccine as soon as possible, and endorses measures by employers and community organizations to require vaccinations to assure the highest levels of community protection. Other EUA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines are expected to be approved by the FDA soon.

“These vaccines have safely protected millions of Americans from the COVID-19 virus,” Health Officer Dr. Gail Newel said. “We hope this FDA approval removes another barrier for vaccine-hesitant members of our community to protect themselves and their loved ones. The Delta variant is significantly impacting our unvaccinated population, and these vaccines, along with wearing face coverings in public, are the best tools we have to protect ourselves.”

COVID-19 vaccines are free and widely available through local health care providers, clinics and pharmacies. For a full list of providers as well as a calendar of local pop-up clinics, go to [www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirusvaccine](http://www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirusvaccine) (English) or [www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirusvacuna](http://www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirusvacuna) (Spanish).

For local information on COVID-19, go to [www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus](http://www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus). Residents may also call (831) 454-4242 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.