NEWS RELEASE

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**ECRI: It’s Time to Move to a Scheduled COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Model**

*Regularly scheduled boosters are the most effective way to maintain normalcy in an endemic*

**PLYMOUTH MEETING, PA—**The most effective way to maintain public health as COVID-19 becomes endemic is to move towards a regular COVID-19 booster schedule, according to a new position paper from ECRI, the nation’s largest nonprofit patient safety organization.

Fewer people have received COVID-19 vaccine boosters compared to the primary vaccine series. Six months after authorization, only 30% of individuals eligible for vaccination have received a booster dose in addition to a full primary vaccination series.

“Moving to a regular vaccine schedule will increase clarity and confidence about what actions to take and when, compared to the current piecemeal, wait-and-see approach,” said Marcus Schabacker, MD, PhD, president and CEO of ECRI. “Transparency and clear guidance are critical to maintaining public support and trust.”

ECRI experts say mental fatigue and a desire for normalcy are likely [driving increasing COVID apathy](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/08/briefing/coronavirus-briefing-americans-fed-up-ottawa-truckers-canada.html). They say unclear guidance and near-constant changes regarding who, when, and how often individuals need boosters can magnify this apathy and cause the public to completely disengage.

“For mRNA vaccines, boosters can be safely administered at regular intervals to address emerging variants, similar to the flu vaccine,” said Marcus Lynch, PhD, MBA, senior manager of clinical excellence and safety at ECRI. “A regular booster schedule may help promote uptake, further decreasing COVID’s prevalence.”

According to ECRI, one of the main goals of vaccination boosters in an endemic is to reduce the prevalence of a virus to levels that make it possible for society to live with it. The best way to do so, experts say, is with a regular booster schedule guided by evidence and data.

ECRI’s position statement, [From Pandemic to Endemic: The Role of COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters and the Need for a Recurring Vaccination Schedule](https://www.ecri.org/position-paper-covid-19-vaccine-boosters-recurring-vaccination), is available for public download on ECRI’s website.

For additional information, visit [www.ecri.org](http://www.ecri.org) or contact ECRI at clientservices@ecri.org.

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**Social Sharing**

* New Position Paper from @ECRI\_Org: The Role of #COVID-19 #Vaccine Boosters and the Need for Recurring #Vaccination Schedule
* Regularly scheduled #COVID-19 boosters are the most effective way to maintain normalcy in an #endemic per @ECRI\_Org position paper

**About ECRI**

ECRI is an independent, nonprofit organization improving the safety, quality, and cost-effectiveness of care across all healthcare settings. With a focus on technology evaluation and safety solutions, ECRI is respected and trusted by healthcare leaders and agencies worldwide. For more than fifty years, ECRI has built its reputation on integrity and disciplined rigor, with an unwavering commitment to independence and strict conflict-of-interest rules.

ECRI is the only organization worldwide to conduct independent medical device evaluations, with labs located in North America and Asia Pacific. ECRI is designated an Evidence-based Practice Center by the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. ECRI and the Institute for Safe Medication Practices PSO is a federally certified Patient Safety Organization as designated by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) formally became an ECRI Affiliate in 2020. Marcus Schabacker, MD, PhD, President and CEO of ECRI, was recognized by the Philadelphia Business Journal as a Healthcare Leader in 2021. Visit www.ecri.org and follow @ECRI\_Org.