

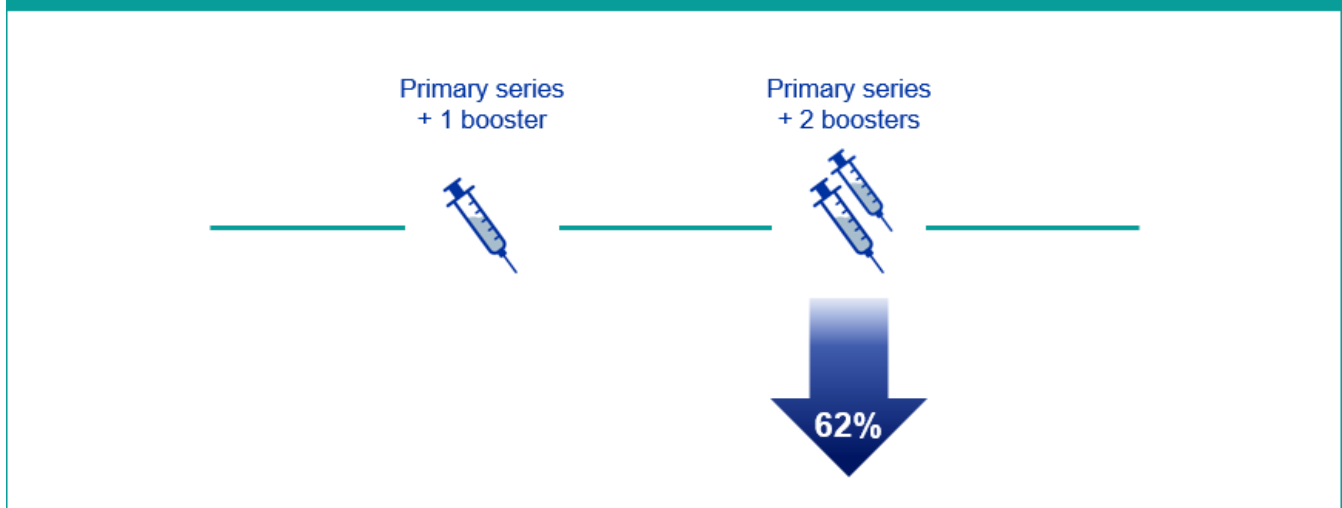
To: All Fresenius Kidney Care Patients

I am writing to you both as a nephrologist with over forty years of experience and as Chief Medical Officer of Care Delivery for Fresenius Medical Care, to urge you to take advantage of the new COVID-19 booster (bivalent) and vaccines that are being offered in our centers.

In all of my years of practice, I have never seen a danger to the life and welfare of people on dialysis as great as that posed by COVID-19 infection. It has broken the hearts of the doctors, nurses, technicians, and administrators of Fresenius Kidney Care to see so many of our dear patients suffer severe illness or die as a result of COVID-19. However, this pain is made worse by knowing that these losses could have been reduced by greater acceptance of vaccination.

**The evidence is clear. The current vaccines lower the rate of hospitalization and death due to COVID-19. Vaccination and boosters protect better than primary vaccination alone** and the worst outcomes are seen in unvaccinated persons. We all understand that COVID-19 infection can occur in vaccinated individuals, but even then, the chance of hospitalization or death is significantly reduced by vaccination. Do not be misled by bad information and bad science. Here are the facts:

## Vaccination with 2 or more booster doses lowered the risk of death from COVID-19\*



\*Adults aged  $\geq 50$  years, August 2022 ([Learn more](#)).

Finally, we are entering “flu season,” and as with COVID-19, vaccination can reduce the chance of becoming seriously ill or dying from this infection. Please speak to your doctor about the new COVID-19 booster (bivalent) and say “yes” when you are offered this protection and the annual “flu” shot.

Sincerely,



**Jeffrey L. Hymes, MD**  
Chief Medical Officer, Care Delivery  
Executive Vice President  
Global Head of Clinical Affairs  
Fresenius Medical Care