Supplementary Materials

Comparing frequency of booster vaccination to prevent severe COVID-19 by risk group in the United States. *Nature Communications*. 2024.

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Technical Appendix

In this appendix, we provide further methodologic description of the data, model structure, assumptions, and statistical analysis in this study.

Simulating vaccine-induced and hybrid protection against COVID-19

Literature to inform estimates on vaccine-induced and hybrid protection for severe and nonsevere COVID-19

We used published studies on the level of protection against severe and non-severe COVID-19 generated from vaccination alone and hybrid immunity (vaccination and prior documented COVID-19) and the waning of this protection over time (Table S1-S2). We simulated vaccineinduced (without prior infection) and hybrid immunity separately given literature suggesting higher and more durable protection from hybrid immunity¹. Waning was defined as changes in level of protection against severe and non-severe COVID-19 since the last vaccine dose or prior infection (whichever event was more recent), which is the definition mostly commonly employed in literature for this analysis.

Table S1: Summary of literature on vaccine-induced and hybrid protection against severe COVID-19.

^aThis article was used as supportive evidence but did not provide absolute protection estimates.

Vaccine status	Prior infection	Follow up time	References
Absolute vaccine effectiveness estimates			
3-doses monovalent	Yes	8 months	Bobrovitz et al. (<i>Lancet ID</i> , 2023) ¹
		6 months	Andeweg et al. (Nature Communications, 2022) ⁵
	N ₀	8 months	Bobrovitz et al. (<i>Lancet ID</i> , 2023) ¹
		6 months	Andeweg et al. (Nature Communications, 2022) ⁵

Table S2: Summary of literature on vaccine-induced and hybrid protection against non-severe COVID-19.

Generating estimates of protection and waning for severe and non-severe COVID-19

We simulated the impact of different booster vaccine schedules over a two-year time horizon. To do this, we needed data on the absolute protection against non-severe and severe COVID-19 for any person, specific to their vaccine status, prior infection status, and time since last vaccine and/or prior infection. Absolute protection was defined against an immune naïve individual. We used data available for both monovalent and bivalent COVID-19 vaccination (see Tables S1-S2) and performed statistical modeling on this data to estimate the waning of protection. For modeling protection against non-severe COVID-19, we used data from a meta-analysis that provided non-age-stratified estimates on protection and waning $(Table S2)^{1}$. To create agestratified estimates, we used age-stratified relationships from another study⁵, which was represented in the meta-analysis. For modeling protection against severe COVID-19, we used data from persons with booster doses $3rd$ dose mRNA vaccine) by age group and prior infection status (Table S1). We used a linear mixed effects model calibrated to literature data on protective effectiveness and waning to generate estimates over a 24-month period. The model outcome was the log of 1 minus protective effectiveness against severe or non-severe COVID-19, with predictor variables of the log of months since last vaccine dose or COVID-19 illness (whichever was more recent), age group (18-49 years, 50-64 years, 65+ years), and prior infection status. Severe and non-severe COVID-19 were modeled separately. We estimated the mean, lower bound, and upper bound simultaneously by treating them as an ordinal variable (lower bound, mean, upper bound), calibrating to literature data using the mean and 95% confidence interval (for lower and upper bound) of protective effectiveness. For the linear mixed effects model, we included a random effect for each study. We included model weights to account for different sample size and level of precision in literature estimates; we defined the weight for each study as the inverse of the width of each estimate's 95% confidence interval. We used the R package 'lmer'. For the mild immunocompromised population, we assumed that protection was on average 13% lower than the immunocompetent population based on literature estimates³, and adjusted waning curves accordingly. For the moderate/severe immunocompromised population, we assumed that waning of protection was on average 25% lower than the immunocompetent population, so we shifted the waning curves down 13% and increased rate of waning by 12%3,6. The estimates on protection against severe COVID-19 for vaccine alone and hybrid immunity are shown in Figure S1. The estimates on protection against non-severe COVID-19 for vaccine alone and hybrid immunity are shown in Figure S2. These estimates of protection against severe

Figure S1: Protective effectiveness against severe COVID-19 generated from vaccine-induced and hybrid immunity by age group or immunocompromised status. Applying published literature, we estimated the absolute protection against severe COVID-19 from vaccine alone (blue line) and hybrid immunity defined by vaccination and prior infection (red line). We plot estimates for five risk groups: (A) 18-49 years; (B) 50-64 years; (C) 65+ years; (D) mild immunocompromised population; and (E) moderate/severe immunocompromised population. In the microsimulation, we use age-specific protection estimates for each immunocompromised population; these plots (D-E) are age-weighted curves for visualization purposes. We used a linear mixed effects model to calibrate to observed data, and then extrapolated these estimates over a 24-month time period. Each estimate included a 95% interval, based on the confidence intervals reported in the primary literature.

Figure S2: Protective effectiveness against non-severe COVID-19 generated from vaccine-induced and hybrid immunity by age group or immunocompromised status. Applying published literature, we estimated the absolute protection against non-severe COVID-19 (infection) from vaccine alone (blue line) and hybrid immunity defined by vaccination and prior infection (red line). We plot estimates for five risk groups: (A) 18-49 years; (B) 50-64 years; (C) 65+ years; (D) mild immunocompromised population; and (E) moderate/severe immunocompromised population. In the microsimulation, we use age-specific protection estimates for each immunocompromised population; these plots (D-E) are age-weighted curves for visualization purposes. We used a regression model to calibrate to observed data, and then extrapolated these estimates over a 24-month time period. Each estimate included a 95% interval, based on the confidence intervals reported in the primary literature.

Simulating protection from COVID-19 booster vaccination

We simulated the benefit of a booster dose to reverse waning of protection and restore the maximal protection against severe and non-severe COVID-19 (see Figures S1 and S2). As an example, for the outcome of severe COVID-19, for a person who is 65+ years (Figure S1, panel C), vaccinated but not previously infected, and last vaccinated or infected 4 months ago, they have a protective effectiveness of about 75% against severe COVID-19, compared to an immune naïve person. If this person receives a booster dose, we model this as shifting them left on this waning curve to time=0, which is about 87% protection, after which they will wane back down the curve over time. Therefore, the impact of additional vaccination conservatively did not increase the absolute protective effectiveness previously achieved, but only restored the lost protection due to waning. This approach to vaccine modeling achieves relative vaccine effectiveness estimates for vaccine alone and hybrid immunity similar to published estimates on the mRNA booster, including monovalent and bivalent doses (Figure S3). While we simulated

bivalent mRNA doses, it may be reasonable to extrapolate this estimated protection to future COVID-19 booster vaccines such as a monovalent booster vaccine targeting XBB.1.5 or future vaccine-targeted variants, especially while longer term follow up data is not yet available. This model can be revised with updated vaccine data to inform decisions on new vaccine formulations as data becomes available. Ultimately, this approach will be relevant to new COVID-19 vaccine formulations if the generated protection is similar to the data and assumptions used in the study.

Figure S3: Relative vaccine effectiveness of a bivalent COVID-19 booster vaccine dose from literature⁷ **compared to estimate in the simulation.**

Prior infection and serosurveillance data

Prior infection status for each person in the model was informed by age-specific seroprevalence estimates, which were obtained from US CDC estimates of serologic surveys with the nucleocapsid antibody (suggesting prior infection, not vaccine-induced antibody response).⁸ The last survey date was from February 2022, thus age-specific seroprevalence estimates were updated as of this date. The model initialization for this study was September 2022, so we used cumulative COVID-19 case counts from March $2022 -$ August 2022^9 to adjust these age-specific seroprevalence estimates to account for this missing time period. We assumed a 2x multiplier to account for case underreporting in the general population. For the immunocompromised population, we created a seroprevalence estimate based on their corresponding age group¹⁰. Assigning a time since last infection is further described in "Estimation of time since last COVID-19 vaccine or illness" section below.

Model calibration

Estimation of time since last COVID-19 vaccine or illness

For calibration of the model (initializing the model to approximately September 2022), we estimated the level of protection against severe and non-severe COVID-19 for each person in the model. This protection was specific to their vaccine status, prior infection status, and time since last vaccination or infection (to account for waning of protection). To simulate time since last COVID-19 vaccine or infection for each person, we separately simulated distributions of time since vaccination and COVID-19 using publicly available data. We calculated time since last COVID-19 event by taking the most recent time among the time since last vaccination, time since infection, or time since reinfection (see Figure S4, Panel D). The 'time-since' distributions by age-group are shown in Figure S4.

For time since last vaccination, we used publicly available data from California COVID-19 vaccine administration of monthly monovalent booster dose counts over time (up until September 1, 2022), which is likely broadly representative of the United States¹¹. We simulated the most recent vaccine dose by randomly sampling from this distribution. This timeframe was chosen to follow the period prior to bivalent booster introduction. We assumed that the time since last booster dose was conditional on the number of monovalent booster doses received by each person (either 1 or 2 booster doses); (see Figure S4, Panel A). We used available data to assign each individual either 1 or 2 monovalent booster doses (with the exception of the 18-49 year age group which we assumed were all 1 booster dose) 1 . If a person received multiple booster doses, we sampled from a more recent time period.

For time since last infection (if applicable), we simulated their time since last COVID-19 infection by randomly sampling from publicly available data on the distribution of monthly COVID-19 cases over time (see Figure S3, Panel B)¹³. We assumed 10% were reinfection over this period (see Figure S4, Panel C).

Figure S4: Data on COVID-19 vaccination, clinical cases, and re-infection to inform time since last COVID-19 vaccine or illness in the simulated population. We used publicly available data from California on: (A) COVID-19 monovalent booster dose administration; (B) COVID-19 clinical cases; (C) COVID-19 reinfections, assuming 10% reinfection. We sampled from these distributions to generate a distribution for time since last COVID-19 vaccine or infection (panel D).

Model calibration and prediction

The model was calibrated to observed data on age-specific estimates of monthly severe COVID-19 incidence (per 100,000 persons). We used publicly available data from the US CDC on severe COVID-19 incidence (based on hospitalization) by age group, using data over the 6-month period preceding bivalent vaccine roll out (March $2022 -$ August 2022)¹⁴. We assumed all COVID-19 deaths were linked to a hospitalization, so we defined severe COVID-19 cases as those leading to hospitalization or death. To estimate severe COVID-19 incidence in vaccinated persons only, we adjusted these age-specific estimates of severe COVID-19 risk by removing the contribution from unvaccinated persons. For this, we used data on COVID-19 death in unvaccinated and vaccinated populations by age⁹, unvaccinated population counts by age¹⁵, and population age distributions¹⁶. For the immunocompromised population, we applied a $2.8x$ multiplier to the age-specific estimates of severe COVID-19 incidence to account for overall higher severity given infection in this population 10 .

The model calibration was done analytically at model initialization $(t=0)$. The model equation for severe COVID-19 was: $Risk_{severe\,COVID} = \lambda * (1 - P_t)$. Risk was estimated as a monthly probability of severe COVID-19. The λ term was equal to monthly risk in a fully susceptible person. The P_t term was level of protection at time 't' and defined as absolute protective effectiveness against severe COVID-19, with waning since last vaccine or infection (see Figure S1). The observed group-specific risk estimates for severe COVID-19 are shown in Table S3. The calibration plots of the simulated severe and non-severe COVID-19 outcome counts over time without any additional booster doses are shown in Figure S5 (counterfactual scenario).

We simulated non-severe COVID-19 given its role in generating protection and our assumed 90day perfect immunity period. The model equation was: $Risk_{non-severe\,COVID} = \lambda *$ $(1 - P_{t,non-severe}) * m_k$. Risk was estimated as a monthly probability of non-severe COVID-19. The λ term was equal to risk in a fully susceptible person (force of infection term), which was adjusted for non-severe risk using age-specific case multipliers m_k . The $P_{t,non-severe}$ term is level of protection at time 't' and defined as absolute protective effectiveness against nonsevere COVID-19, with waning since last vaccine or infection (see Figure S2). Table S3 includes the multipliers (m_k) atop severe COVID-19 to generate the number of non-severe infections in the risk groups. These multipliers were informed by US CDC estimates of age-stratified ratios of infections and hospitalizations/deaths¹⁷, available literature, and accounting for underreporting of cases. To estimate non-severe COVID-19 in the immunocompromised group, we used an ageadjusted multiplier informed by the same CDC estimates of age-stratified ratios of infections, age distribution of the immunocompromised population^{16,18}, and cumulative risk ratio between immunocompromised and immunocompetent groups 10 .

The full reporting of results for predicted severe COVID-19 outcomes under each booster schedule are in the main manuscript (Table 1) and Figure S10, and the results for predicted nonsevere COVID-19 outcomes are shown in Table S9. The age-stratified results for predicted severe COVID-19 outcomes in immunocompromised groups are in Tables S10-S11. The results under no additional booster are in Table S12. We also included a set of risk estimates for severe COVID-19 based on baseline characteristics (age, immunocompromised status) and waning protection over time, which are shown in Figure S11.

Risk Group	Monthly Severe COVID-19 Risk $(\lambda)^a$	Monthly Incidence, per 100,000 persons (Observed)	Monthly Incidence, per 100,000 persons (Model)	Non-Severe Infection Multiplier
$18-49$ years	0.00073 $(0.00037 - 0.00238)$	7.9	8.0 $(7.9 - 8.8)$	200
$50-64$ years	0.00111 $(0.00060 - 0.00354)$	15.8	16.5 $(15.6 - 17.3)$	79.6
$65-74$ years	0.00226 $(0.00129 - 0.00568)$	40.4	40.9 $(40.3 - 42.3)$	22.6
$75+$ years	0.00622 $(0.00355 - 0.01565)$	112.7	113.7 $(112.6 - 117.2)$	9.6
Immunocompromised (Mild)	0.00356 $(0.00239 - 0.00575)$	99.9	103.2 $(101.3 - 106.3)$	101.1
Immunocompromised (Moderate/Severe)	0.00320 $(0.00221 - 0.00489)$	99.9	103.4 $(100.9 - 106.5)$	101.1

Table S3: Model calibration with risk estimates for severe COVID-19.

Observed data from US CDC surveillance data on severe COVID-19 in the United States. a

^aThe monthly severe COVID-19 risk estimate is multiplied by 1 minus the protective effectiveness in the model. We assumed mild and moderate/severe immunocompromised population had a similar risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection as the general population but 2.8x higher risk of severe disease given infection. These estimates are reported in this table as age-weighted averages.

Figure S5: Monthly incidence of non-severe and severe COVID-19 outcomes in four age groups and two immunocompromised groups over a two-year simulation period with no additional COVID-19 booster vaccination. We used a microsimulation population of 1 million per risk group and estimated person-level protection against non-severe (panel A) and severe COVID-19 (panel B) based on each person's vaccine status, prior infection history, and time since last vaccine or natural infection. We modeled the waning of each person's pre-existing protection at the start of the simulation, as no additional COVID-19 booster vaccination was distributed. The uncertainty intervals are based on 95% CI of published literature of waning data, in addition to uncertainty characterized in the age-specific seroprevalence and non-severe infection multiplier estimates.

Model validation

For model validation, we performed a comparison of model-predicted outcomes and observed outcomes over the first 3 months of bivalent vaccination in the United States (September 2022 – November 2022). We obtained observed data on age-specific estimates of monthly severe COVID-19 incidence (per 100,000 persons) using the same US CDC dataset on severe COVID-19 incidence and analytical approach as previously described¹⁴. For the model-predicted outcomes, we simulated the one-time-dose booster schedule with the bivalent vaccine (coinciding with bivalent dose roll out), adjusting the number of vaccines that were released to match the proportions vaccinated with the bivalent booster by end of November 2022 in the United States^{12,15,19}. We compared the average monthly incidence of severe COVID-19 outcomes over the 3-month period between the model prediction and observed data (Table S4).

Risk Group	Severe COVID-19 Monthly Incidence, per $100,000$ persons (Observed)	Severe COVID-19 Monthly Incidence, per 100,000 persons (Model)	Proportion Vaccinated with Bivalent Booster by November 2022 ^a
$18-49$ years	6.3	8.2	0.147
$50-64$ years	17.1	16.7	0.147
$65-74$ years	47.3	40.6	0.326
$75+$ years	141.9	111.2	0.326
Immunocompromised (Mild)	118.3	102.1	0.36
Immunocompromised (Moderate/Severe)	118.3	102.2	0.36

Table S4: Model validation comparing model-predicted severe COVID-19 incidence and observed incidence over the first 3 months of bivalent vaccination in the United States (September 2022 – November 2022).

a The proportion vaccinated for the 18-49 and 50-64 years age groups are from 18+ years estimate. The proportion vaccinated used for the 65-74 and 75+ years age groups are for the 65+ years estimate.

We assumed mild and moderate/severe immunocompromised population had the same incidence of severe COVID-19 given limited reported data. In these populations, we assumed a similar risk of SARS-CoV-2 infection as the general population but 2.8x higher risk of severe disease given infection. These estimates are reported in this table as age-weighted averages.

Uncertainty analysis

To quantify uncertainty in the study findings, we generated uncertainty intervals (UI) for our model estimate that account for parameter uncertainty in model inputs. These intervals account for the uncertainty in protective effectiveness and waning over time, in addition to the uncertainty in baseline age-specific seroprevalence estimates and age-specific non-severe infection multipliers. For each model parameter, we created 'upper', 'mean', and 'lower' bound versions (Table S5) and ran simulations under each combination of model parameter bounds. The uncertainty interval represents the full bounds of the study outcomes under these parameter combinations. The lower, mean, and upper bounds of the waning curves were generated from the 95% confidence intervals of the absolute protective effectiveness literature estimates (Tables S1- S2). The predicted estimates of waning protective effectiveness by age group and prior infection status are shown in Figures S1-S2. For baseline age-specific seroprevalence estimates, we set the lower bound to be 10% lower (in absolute terms) than the base case estimates and the upper bound to be 25% higher (in absolute terms) than the base case seroprevalence estimates. For the age-specific non-severe infection multipliers, we set the lower bound to be a 25% reduction and the upper bound to be a 25% increase from the base case non-severe infection multiplier estimates. We ran 25 simulations of each parameter set which achieved stable estimates. The model parameter ranges to generate the uncertainty interval are summarized in Table S5.

Table S5: Model parameters for characterizing uncertainty.

Sensitivity analysis

Pessimistic and optimistic waning

We conducted a sensitivity analysis modeling pessimistic and optimistic waning of protection against severe COVID-19 outcomes. We reduced the rate of waning (optimistic assumption) or increased the rate of waning (pessimistic assumption) by 10%, as shown in Figure S6. This was done separately for each risk group. Then we simulated the COVID-19 booster schedules in each risk group cohort. The predicted annual risk of severe COVID-19 outcomes under each booster schedule are in the main manuscript (Figure 3). The predicted severe COVID-19 outcomes under each booster schedule are in Tables S13 and S14.

Figure S6: Protective effectiveness against severe COVID-19 generated from vaccine-induced and hybrid immunity with assumptions of pessimistic and optimistic waning. After generating the absolute predictions for vaccine-induced and hybrid immunity (red line), we reduced the rate of waning (optimistic assumption; yellow line) or increased the rate of waning (pessimistic assumption; blue line) by 10%.

Pessimistic and optimistic vaccine effectiveness

We conducted a sensitivity analysis modeling pessimistic and optimistic assumptions of overall protection against severe COVID-19 outcomes. We shifted the protection curves up (optimistic assumption) or down (pessimistic assumption) by 10%, as shown in Figure S7. Then we simulated the three COVID-19 booster schedules in each risk group cohort. The predicted annual risk of severe COVID-19 outcomes under each booster schedule are in the main manuscript (Figure 3). The predicted severe COVID-19 outcomes under each booster schedule are in Tables S15 and S16.

Figure S7: Protective effectiveness against severe COVID-19 generated from vaccine-induced and hybrid immunity with assumptions of pessimistic and optimistic vaccine effectiveness. After generating the absolute

predictions for vaccine-induced and hybrid immunity (red line), we adjusted the overall waning up (optimistic assumption; yellow line) or down (pessimistic assumption; blue line) by 10%.

High and low incidence of severe COVID-19

We conducted a sensitivity analysis on severe COVID-19 incidence, simulating higher or lower incidence scenarios. For this analysis, we applied multipliers of either 0.5x (lower incidence) and 2x (higher incidence) to risk group-specific estimates of severe COVID-19 incidence before running the model calibration. Then we simulated the three COVID-19 booster schedules in each risk-group cohort. The predicted annual risk of severe COVID-19 outcomes under each booster schedule are in the main manuscript (Figure 3). The predicted severe COVID-19 outcomes under each booster schedule are in Tables S17 and S18.

High and low seroprevalence

We conducted a sensitivity analysis on seroprevalence, simulating higher, lower, and 100% seroprevalence scenarios. For the higher and lower seroprevalence scenarios, we incorporated a 25% relative increase (higher seroprevalence) or decrease (lower seroprevalence) to the seroprevalence estimates in each risk group before running the model calibration. Then we calibrated the model and simulated the three COVID-19 booster schedules in each risk-group cohort. The predicted annual risk of severe COVID-19 outcomes under each booster schedule for the 100% seroprevalence sensitivity analysis is in the main manuscript (Figure 3) The predicted severe COVID-19 outcomes under each booster schedule are in Tables S19-S21.

Five-year time horizon

We conducted a sensitivity analysis simulating the impact of different booster vaccination schedules over a five-year time horizon instead of two years. We simulated the same three vaccination strategies from the main analysis: i) one-time booster at the start of the simulation (base case); ii) one-time booster followed by annual boosters (total of 5 doses); and iii) one-time booster followed by boosters every 6 months (total of 10 doses). We assumed that waning of protection remained fixed after 24 months. The predicted severe COVID-19 outcomes under each booster schedule are in Table S22.

Delayed vaccine administration

We conducted a sensitivity analysis simulating delayed vaccine administration, with the administration of boosters over a 6-month period rather than a 3-month period. We simulated the three COVID-19 booster schedules in each risk group cohort. The predicted severe COVID-19 outcomes under each booster schedule are in Table S23.

Higher sub-clinical infection

We conducted a sensitivity analysis with a higher proportion of sub-clinical COVID-19 infections. We applied a 2x multiplier to the risk group-specific non-severe infection multipliers. Then we simulated the three COVID-19 booster schedules in each risk-group cohort. The predicted severe COVID-19 outcomes under each booster schedule are in Table S24.

Lower vaccine effectiveness after first dose

We conducted a sensitivity analysis simulating lower vaccine effectiveness in subsequent booster doses after the first dose (applicable to annual and semiannual booster schedules only). Starting with the second booster dose, every vaccine dose that was administered had protection reset to

waned protection at month 3 instead of resetting waning completely at time point 0. Then we simulated the COVID-19 booster schedules in each risk group cohort. The full reporting of results for severe COVID-19 outcomes under each booster schedule are in Table S25.

Lower vaccine coverage

The primary model was formulated as a static model with perfect vaccine uptake; therefore, population-level benefit would scale with vaccine coverage.

Scenario analysis: Novel variants

We repeated the primary analysis under different scenarios for emergence of novel variants with immune evasion (summarized in Figure 1A). In scenario 1, a novel variant is introduced at the start of the simulation. In scenario 2, a novel variant is introduced at the start of Year 2 of the simulation. In scenario 3, a novel variant 1 is introduced at the start of the simulation, and a novel variant 2 is introduced at the start of Year 2. In scenario 4, the novel variant circulation is the same as outlined in scenario 3, but this time, the vaccines administered are targeted to the variant (two distinct vaccine formulations, akin to the seasonally targeted influenza vaccine) allowing for additional restoration of protection. Novel variants were introduced over a 3-month period. Variants are modeled under two different immune evasion scenarios: i) absolute protection from vaccine-induced or hybrid protection against severe COVID-19 is reduced by 10% with circulation of the novel variant, due to immune evasion; and ii) absolute protection is reduced by 10%, and rate of waning increases by 5% with circulation of the novel variant. In scenario 3 and 4, emergence of variant 2 led to an additional reduction in absolute protection in the population, beyond the initial reduction experienced during emergence of variant 1. In scenario 4, the variant-targeted vaccine restored the protection lost due to immune evasion of the new variant for vaccine-induced protection and partially restored protection for those with hybrid immunity. Infection with the currently circulating variant restored full hybrid immunity. A full description of modeling of variants and vaccine effects for scenario 3 and 4 (version 1) are found in Figures S8-S9. We simulated 8 total scenarios, with 4 variant scenarios and 2 immune evasion scenarios. We did not simulate variants with higher infectiousness or severity.

The predicted annual risk of severe COVID-19 outcomes under each booster schedule for each of the novel variant scenario analyses are in Figures S12-S13.

A. Original Variant Period (for reference)

Figure S8: Novel variant scenario 3 (version 1) protective effectiveness against severe COVID-19. For scenario 3, we plot estimates for protective effectiveness during period of novel variant 1 (panel B) and novel variant 2 (panel C), including reference of the original variant (panel A).

A. Original Variant Period (for reference)

Figure S9: Novel variant scenario 4 (version 1) protective effectiveness against severe COVID-19. For scenario 4, we plot estimates for protective effectiveness during period of novel variant 1 (panel B) and novel variant 2 (panel C) with use of variant-targeted vaccine, including reference of the original variant (panel A).

Scenario analysis: Dynamic transmission model

In this scenario analysis, we repeated the primary analysis using a dynamic transmission model, which accounted for the indirect effects of vaccination on transmission. The objective was to determine to what extent booster vaccination strategies affected transmission and, by extension, risk of severe COVID-19, especially in high-risk groups. The dynamic model had key modifications from the primary microsimulation model, with the following governing equation.

Prob_nonsevere_infection(i,j,t) = $\lambda_{all} * \beta_j * (1 - PE_{i,j,t}) * \sum C_{j,k} *$ $I_{k,t-1}$ N_k 6 $k=1$ $i = individual$ $i = age$ group of individual i $k = age$ group of others

$$
t = time
$$

The following is a summary of the differences in the dynamic transmission model compared to the primary model. First, the 'force of infection' term was formulated to be directly related to the number of SARS-CoV-2 infections in the population in the prior time step (week). This additional term of $\frac{I_{k,t-1}}{N_k}$ was applied to estimate the probability of SARS-CoV-2 infection (and severe COVID-19), where $I_{k,t-1}$ is the number of infections during the prior week in age group k and N_k is the population size in age group k. In a sensitivity analysis, we also tested a daily time step. We applied an age-based contact matrix to account for heterogeneous mixing by age group, using term $C_{i,k}$ to account for the number of contacts C between an individual of age group j with another age group k in the United States (see Table S6)²⁰. These terms were summed across age groups to be the expected number of infectious contacts for an individual in age group *at* time t. Second, a β_i term (transmission coefficient for age group j) was added to account for differences in transmission risk by age group, in order to support calibration of the model to observed age-specific COVID-19 incidence. Third, the simulated population included all age groups (addition of children, 0-17 years) and unvaccinated individuals. We used 100% minus the age-specific coverage estimates of primary series vaccine completion to estimate the proportion of unvaccinated persons¹¹. We generated additional protective effectiveness and waning curves for children (0-17 years), unvaccinated individuals (with prior infection), and applied data on protection against clinical cases to protection against infection. Model inputs and assumptions for the 0–17-year age group can be found in Table S7. Fourth, we simulated a total population of 10 million, ensuring that age- and immunocompromised status reflects the United States population. Table S7 includes assumed demography, estimates for age-specific coverage of uptake of vaccine strategies, and risk of being immunocompromised $18,21$. Fifth, while the model was calibrated to match observed, age-specific non-severe COVID-19 outcomes at baseline (time 0), the model was not calibrated to match a defined number of severe COVID-19 cases over the 2-year simulation period (see Table S8 for model calibration). We assumed immunocompetent and immunocompromised groups had the same transmission coefficients, and used a higher nonsevere case multiplier to better calibrate the model. Under the described approach to calibration, the dynamic model estimated a modestly higher number of severe COVID-19 cases compared to the static model over the simulation period for the single booster scenario. Since the goal of this model was not to predict the trends in COVID-19 outcomes over time, but rather compare the potential impact of indirect effects under different vaccine strategies by risk group, this approach to calibration was kept to minimize introduction of additional assumptions. Overall, the relative comparison between risk groups under different vaccine strategies was more important than the absolute estimates of severe COVID-19 risk to determine the potential impact of indirect effects. Sixth, vaccine strategies were applied with imperfect uptake coverage by age- and immune status to reflect current values^{11,12} (see Table S7).

We compared booster vaccination strategies in the following groups to determine the impact of indirect effects of vaccination: i) 75+ years and moderately/severely immunocompromised (most restrictive); ii) 65+ years and mildly and moderately/severely immunocompromised; and iii) all groups 18+ years (most inclusive). We compared these booster vaccination strategies under two uptake scenarios: i) realistic uptake modeling current up-to-date coverage of boosters; and ii) optimistic uptake with higher coverage. In all the population targeting strategies (18+, 65+, and 75+ years) and with any of the booster interventions (one-time, annual, semiannual), the first booster is distributed to everyone 18 years and older under the two coverage scenarios from Table S7. Subsequent doses (if applicable) are distributed based on their respective population targeting strategies and respective coverage scenarios. If present, the largest indirect effects from vaccination are expected with more inclusive vaccine strategies and optimistic coverage. Study outcomes were computed in among persons assigned to the booster vaccination strategies (i.e., excluding unvaccinated persons, or those who did not receive additional vaccination); this was done to improve comparability to the primary model.

The predicted annual risk of severe COVID-19 outcomes under each booster schedule for the dynamic transmission model analyses are in Figures S14-S15.

^a These are average contacts per day; we adjust these for a week time step when applicable. Contact matrix based on published study.20

Table S7. Demographic characteristics of population for dynamic model.

^a We assumed that severe immunocompromised individuals are 15% of the total immunocompromised population. ^bThe immunocompromised population represent a subset of each age group using the age-specific immunocompromised prevalence estimates. The immunocompromised population was assumed to have the same level of prior infection (seroprevalence) and unvaccinated status as their respective immunocompetent age groups. We assume a higher level of current up-to-date and optimistic vaccination coverage for immunocompromised groups.

Table S8. Model calibration for dynamic transmission model with risk estimates for non-severe COVID-19.

Model reporting checklist

We completed the CHEERS checklist, which is a reporting standards checklist that be applied for simulation studies, as a supplemental file. We marked economic related items as N/A. We completed the Nature journal editorial checklists.

Computing

R packages used in this study include 'tidyverse', 'reshape2', 'lubridate', 'scales', 'lme4', 'data.table', 'foreach', 'doParallel', and 'here'.

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Supplemental Tables and Figures

Table S9: Number of non-severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert non-severe COVID-19 in six risk groups with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

Table S10: Number of severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert severe COVID-19 in four age groups among the mild immunocompromised population with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

Table S11: Number of severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert severe COVID-19 in four age groups among the moderate/severe immunocompromised population with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

Table S12: Number of severe COVID-19 cases and risk in six risk groups with no additional COVID-19 booster vaccination.

Table S13: Sensitivity analysis of pessimistic waning on the number of severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert severe COVID-19 in six risk groups with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

Table S14: Sensitivity analysis of optimistic waning on the number of severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert severe COVID-19 in six risk groups with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

Table S15: Sensitivity analysis of pessimistic vaccine effectiveness on the number of severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert severe COVID-19 in six risk groups with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

Table S16: Sensitivity analysis of optimistic vaccine effectiveness on the number of severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert severe COVID-19 in six risk groups with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

Table S17: Sensitivity analysis of higher severe COVID-19 incidence on the number of severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert severe COVID-19 in six risk groups with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

Table S18: Sensitivity analysis of lower severe COVID-19 incidence on the number of severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert severe COVID-19 in six risk groups with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

Table S19: Sensitivity analysis of lower seroprevalence on the number of severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert severe COVID-19 in six risk groups with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

Table S20: Sensitivity analysis of higher seroprevalence on the number of severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert severe COVID-19 in six risk groups with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

Table S21: Sensitivity analysis of 100% seroprevalence on the number of severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert severe COVID-19 in six risk groups with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

Table S22: Sensitivity analysis of a five-year simulation period on the number of severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert severe COVID-19 in six risk groups with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

Table S23: Sensitivity analysis of delayed vaccination administration on the number of severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert severe COVID-19 in six risk groups with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

Table S24: Sensitivity analysis of higher sub-clinical infection on the number of severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert severe COVID-19 in six risk groups with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

Table S25: Sensitivity analysis of lower vaccine effectiveness for subsequent doses after the first dose on the number of severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert severe COVID-19 in six risk groups with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

Figure S10: Monthly incidence of severe COVID-19 in four age groups and two immunocompromised groups over a two-year simulation period with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

Figure S11: Risk of severe COVID-19 over time by baseline risk and waning protection. **Figure S12:** Scenario analysis on emergence of novel SARS-CoV-2 variants with immune evasion (10% reduction in immunity) comparing severe COVID-19 risk with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

Figure S13: Scenario analysis on emergence of novel SARS-CoV-2 variants with immune evasion (10% absolute reduction and 5% increased rate of waning) comparing severe COVID-19 risk with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

Figure S14: Scenario analysis using a dynamic transmission model under realistic coverage assumptions to estimate the impact of indirect effects on COVID-19 booster vaccination strategies in four age groups and two immunocompromised groups.

Figure S15: Scenario analysis using a dynamic transmission model under optimistic coverage assumptions to estimate the impact of indirect effects on COVID-19 booster vaccination strategies in four age groups and two immunocompromised groups.

Table S9: Number of non-severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert non-severe COVID-19 in six risk groups with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

(Moderate/Severe) (9,569-17,736)

^a Estimated over 2-year simulation period in population of 1 million persons.

^b One-time booster is the baseline intervention for risk reduction calculations.

Table S10: Number of severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert severe COVID-19 in four age groups among the mild immunocompromised population with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

a Estimated over 2-year simulation period in population of 1 million persons.

b One-time booster is the baseline intervention for risk reduction calculations.

Table S11: Number of severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert severe COVID-19 in four age groups among the moderate/severe immunocompromised population with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

^a Estimated over 2-year simulation period in population of 1 million persons.
^bOne-time booster is the baseline intervention for risk reduction calculations.

Table S12: Number of severe COVID-19 cases and risk in six risk groups with no additional COVID-19 booster vaccination. Total severe COVID-19 cases^a Absolute annual risk of

a Estimated over 2-year simulation period in population of 1 million persons.

bNo boosters given during simulation, although persons have received at least one monovalent booster dose prior to the initiation of the simulation.

Table S13: Sensitivity analysis of pessimistic waning on the number of severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert severe COVID-19 in six risk groups with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

(Moderate/Severe) (948-1,140) **a** Estimated over 2-year simulation period in population of 1 million persons.

^bOne-time booster is the baseline intervention for risk reduction calculations.

Table S14: Sensitivity analysis of optimistic waning on the number of severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert severe COVID-19 in six risk groups with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

(Moderate/Severe) (985-1,245) **a** Estimated over 2-year simulation period in population of 1 million persons.

^bOne-time booster is the baseline intervention for risk reduction calculations.

Table S15: Sensitivity analysis of pessimistic vaccine effectiveness on the number of severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert severe COVID-19 in six risk groups with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

(Moderate/Severe) (1,016-1,254)

^a Estimated over 2-year simulation period in population of 1 million persons.

^b One-time booster is the baseline intervention for risk reduction calculations.

Table S16: Sensitivity analysis of optimistic vaccine effectiveness on the number of severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert severe COVID-19 in six risk groups with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

(Moderate/Severe) (879-1,019)

^a Estimated over 2-year simulation period in population of 1 million persons.

^b One-time booster is the baseline intervention for risk reduction calculations.

Table S17: Sensitivity analysis of higher severe COVID-19 incidence on the number of severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert severe COVID-19 in six risk groups with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

(Moderate/Severe) (1,765-2,270)

^a Estimated over 2-year simulation period in population of 1 million persons.

^b One-time booster is the baseline intervention for risk reduction calculations.

Table S18: Sensitivity analysis of lower severe COVID-19 incidence on the number of severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert severe COVID-19 in six risk groups with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

(Moderate/Severe) (504-609) **a** Estimated over 2-year simulation period in population of 1 million persons. b One-time booster is the baseline intervention for risk reduction calculations.

Table S19: Sensitivity analysis of lower seroprevalence on the number of severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert severe COVID-19 in six risk groups with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

(Moderate/Severe) (947-1,082) **a** Estimated over 2-year simulation period in population of 1 million persons. b One-time booster is the baseline intervention for risk reduction calculations.

Table S20: Sensitivity analysis of higher seroprevalence on the number of severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert severe COVID-19 in six risk groups with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

(Moderate/Severe) (1,005-1,268) **a** Estimated over 2-year simulation period in population of 1 million persons. b One-time booster is the baseline intervention for risk reduction calculations.

Table S21: Sensitivity analysis of 100% seroprevalence on the number of severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert severe COVID-19 in six risk groups with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

(Moderate/Severe) (1,253-1,307) **a** Estimated over 2-year simulation period in population of 1 million persons.

^bOne-time booster is the baseline intervention for risk reduction calculations.

Table S22: Sensitivity analysis of a five-year simulation period on the number of severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert severe COVID-19 in six risk groups with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

(Moderate/Severe) (848-1,121)

^a Estimated over 5-year simulation period in population of 1 million persons.

^b One-time booster is the baseline intervention for risk reduction calculations.

Table S23: Sensitivity analysis of delayed vaccine administration on the number of severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert severe COVID-19 in six risk groups with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

(Moderate/Severe) (982-1,199)

^a Estimated over 2-year simulation period in population of 1 million persons.

^b One-time booster is the baseline intervention for risk reduction calculations.

Table S24: Sensitivity analysis of higher sub-clinical infection on the number of severe COVID-19 cases, risk, and number needed to treat to avert severe COVID-19 in six risk groups with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination.

(Moderate/Severe) (896-1,147) **a** Estimated over 2-year simulation period in population of 1 million persons.

^bOne-time booster is the baseline intervention for risk reduction calculations.

(Moderate/Severe) (1,073-1,291) **a** Estimated over 2-year simulation period in population of 1 million persons. b One-time booster is the baseline intervention for risk reduction calculations.

Figure S10: Monthly incidence of severe COVID-19 in four age groups and two immunocompromised groups over a two-year simulation period with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination. We simulated three COVID-19 booster vaccine schedules with the mRNA dose: (A) One-time booster (total of 1 dose); (B) annual booster (total of 2 doses); (C) booster every 6 months (total of 4 doses). We estimated incidence of severe COVID-19 per 100,000 persons (y-axis) over time in months (x-axis), by age group and immunocompromised population in Panels A-C. We modeled the protection of a booster (administered in the population over a 3-month period) to restore vaccine-induced protection that waned over time based on published literature, which reduced severe COVID-19 cases. More frequent booster vaccination (panel B-C) reduced total severe COVID-19 cases compared to onetime booster (panel A), and this benefit was most pronounced in the oldest age groups. The uncertainty intervals are based on uncertainty in waning data, in addition to uncertainty in baseline seroprevalence and non-severe infection multiplier estimates.

Figure S11: Risk of severe COVID-19 over time by baseline risk and waning protection. We modeled risk of severe COVID-19 by baseline risk and time since last immune event (vaccine or infection) by multiplying age-specific lambdas to protection estimates over time. The risk groups modeled here are the (A) 18-49 years; (B) 50-64 years; (C) 65-74 years; (D) 75+ years; (E) Immunocompromised (mild); and (F) Immunocompromised (moderate/severe).

E. Immunocompromised (Mild)

Figure S12: Scenario analysis on emergence of novel SARS-CoV-2 variants with immune evasion (10% reduction in immunity) comparing severe COVID-19 risk with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination. We simulated four scenarios on emergence of novel variant(s) with reduced susceptibility to protection generated by prior vaccination and natural infection. Under each variant scenario analysis, we simulated three frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccine for four age groups and two immunocompromised groups. We plotted absolute annual risk of severe COVID-19 over a two-year simulation. The vertical bars represent uncertainty intervals and capture the full range of varied model parameters (n=25 simulations per model parameter set), while the point estimate uses base case assumptions of model inputs. Intervals are designed to demonstrate uncertainty within a single vaccine strategy; comparison between vaccine strategies should use the same assumed baseline conditions.

E. Immunocompromised (Mild)

Figure S13: Scenario analysis on emergence of novel SARS-CoV-2 variants with immune evasion (10% absolute reduction and 5% increased rate of waning) comparing severe COVID-19 risk with different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccination. We simulated four scenarios on emergence of novel variant(s) with reduced susceptibility to protection generated by prior vaccination and natural infection. Under each variant scenario analysis, we simulated three frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccine for four age groups and two immunocompromised groups. We plotted absolute annual risk of severe COVID-19 over a twoyear simulation. The vertical bars represent uncertainty intervals and capture the full range of varied model parameters (n=25 simulations per model parameter set), while the point estimate uses base case assumptions of model inputs. Intervals are designed to demonstrate uncertainty within a single vaccine strategy; comparison between vaccine strategies should use the same assumed baseline conditions.

Figure S14: Scenario analysis using a dynamic transmission model under realistic coverage assumptions to estimate the impact of indirect effects on COVID-19 booster vaccination strategies in four age groups and two immunocompromised groups. We used a dynamic transmission model to compare different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccine in the following groups: (A) 75+ years, moderate/severe immunocompromised group; (B) 65+ years and all immunocompromised groups; and (C) 18+ years in all groups. We assumed a background of one-time booster vaccination at the start of the simulation in adults $(18 + \text{years})$ with agespecific coverage based on current uptake. We plotted absolute annual risk of severe COVID-19 over a two-year simulation in four age groups and two immunocompromised groups, to compare the indirect effects of booster vaccination on all risk groups. Table S7 reports the coverage estimates (realistic vaccine uptake assumption). The vertical bars represent uncertainty intervals and capture the full range of varied model parameters (n=25 simulations per model parameter set), while the point estimate uses base case assumptions of model inputs. Intervals are designed to demonstrate uncertainty within a single vaccine strategy; comparison between vaccine strategies should use the same assumed baseline conditions.

E. Immunocompromised (Mild)

Figure S15: Scenario analysis using a dynamic transmission model under optimistic coverage assumptions to estimate the impact of indirect effects on COVID-19 booster vaccination strategies in four age groups and two immunocompromised groups. We used a dynamic transmission model to compare different frequencies of COVID-19 booster vaccine in the following groups: (A) $75+$ years, moderate/severe immunocompromised group; (B) $65+$ years and all immunocompromised groups; and (C) 18+ years in all groups. We assumed a background of one-time booster vaccination at the start of the simulation in adults (18+ years) with age-specific coverage based on optimistic uptake assumptions. We plotted absolute annual risk of severe COVID-19 over a two-year simulation in four age groups and two immunocompromised groups, to compare the indirect effects of booster vaccination on all risk groups. Table S7 reports the coverage estimates (optimistic vaccine uptake assumption). The vertical bars represent uncertainty intervals and capture the full range of varied model parameters (n=25 simulations per model parameter set), while the point estimate uses base case assumptions of model inputs. Intervals are designed to demonstrate uncertainty within a single vaccine strategy; comparison between vaccine strategies should use the same assumed baseline conditions.