

DPHHS HAN

Information Sheet



DATE

September 28, 2021

SUBJECT

CDC recommends booster dose of Pfizer vaccine six months after primary series for certain individuals

BACKGROUND

On September 23, 2021, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to recommend a booster dose of Pfizer vaccines for certain individuals six months after the completion of the primary series. *This additional dose is only for people who have previously received both primary doses of Pfizer vaccine. There is no guidance yet on booster doses for Moderna or Johnson & Johnson.*

Previously, the ACIP recommended that immunocompromised people should receive a 3rd dose of mRNA vaccine to improve immune response to COVID-19. This guidance remains in effect for all people who are 28 days past the completion of their Moderna or Pfizer second dose. The full guidance for 3rd doses of mRNA vaccine see [DPHHS HAN 2021-26: CDC Recommends 3rd Dose of mRNA Vaccine for Immunocompromised People¹](#).

Note: Booster doses do not change the definition of fully vaccinated. People who have received both primary doses of Pfizer vaccine are still considered fully vaccinated for COVID-19.

Any person who meets the booster dose criteria below and has received two primary doses of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine will be able to self-attest to their status and receive a booster dose.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Healthcare Providers

All providers should continue to recommend COVID-19 vaccination for all individuals age 12+ who are eligible for vaccine to reduce the risk of infection, serious illness or death, as well as reduce transmission to others, many of whom may be at increased risk.

CDC Recommends

- People 65 years and older and residents in long-term care settings 18 years or older should receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series;
- People aged 50 to 64 with [certain underlying medical conditions²](#) should receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series;
- People 18 to 49 who are at high risk for severe COVID-19 due to [certain underlying medical conditions²](#) may receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks; and
- People aged 18-64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting may receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks.

Below is a list of high-risk medical conditions identified by the CDC:

- Cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- Chronic lung diseases, including:
 - Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), including emphysema and chronic bronchitis
 - Moderate to severe asthma
 - Interstitial lung disease
 - Cystic Fibrosis
 - Pulmonary Hypertension
- Dementia or Alzheimer's
- Diabetes
- Down Syndrome
- Heart conditions, including:
 - Heart failure
 - Coronary artery disease
 - Cardiomyopathies
 - Hypertension
- HIV infection
- Immunocompromised state
- Liver disease
- Being overweight or obese
- Pregnancy
- Sickle cell disease or thalassemia
- Smoking, current or former
- Solid organ or stem cell transplant recipient
- Stroke or cerebrovascular disease
- Substance use disorder

Review the updated [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering the Vaccine \(Vaccination Providers\)](#)³.

Review the [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#)⁴.

Provide all patients the [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#)⁵ prior to the administration.

Review the updated CDC [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States](#)⁶.

Local Health Jurisdictions

- Continue to work with local vaccine providers to deliver and administer safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines in your community.
- Administer a booster dose of Pfizer vaccine to certain individuals who self-attest to their eligibility and are six months past the completion of their primary series of Pfizer.
- The individual may self-attest to their eligibility, however the date of last vaccine should be verified to ensure that the individual completed their second dose 6 months prior to receipt of their booster dose.

Please share this HAN with relevant partners at your discretion.

References

1. DPHHS HAN 2021-26: CDC Recommends 3rd Dose of mRNA Vaccine for Immunocompromised People:
<https://dphhs.mt.gov/assets/publichealth/HAN/2021/HANUD2021-26.pdf>
2. Underlying medical conditions:
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html>
3. Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering the Vaccine (Vaccination Providers):
<https://www.fda.gov/media/144413/download>
4. Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers:
<https://www.fda.gov/media/144414/download>
5. Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers:
<https://www.fda.gov/media/144414/download>
6. Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States:
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html>
7. **Updated CDC COVID-19 booster-shot webpage:**
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html>
8. **Montana DPHHS COVID-19 Vaccine Availability and Resources in Montana:**
<https://dphhs.mt.gov/covid19vaccine/>