

## **Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19): Booster Doses for Pfizer, Moderna and Janssen Vaccine Recipients**

### **ODP Announcement 21-078**

#### **AUDIENCE:**

All interested stakeholders

#### **PURPOSE:**

To announce recent recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) about booster doses of COVID-19 vaccines. All three available vaccines, Pfizer, Moderna, and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson), now have available guidance regarding booster doses.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

On Thursday, October 21, 2021, the CDC issued a recommendation for Moderna and Janssen booster doses for certain groups of individuals. This is in addition to the CDC's earlier recommendation on September 24, 2021 for the Pfizer booster dose.

The CDC issued the following guidance for booster doses for individuals who received their Moderna or Pfizer primary series at least six months ago:

- people 65 years and older should receive a booster

- residents in long-term care settings aged 18 and above should receive a booster
- people aged 50–64 years with underlying medical conditions should receive a booster. The underlying medical conditions identified by the CDC include:
  - Cancer
  - Chronic kidney disease
  - Chronic lung diseases, including COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), asthma (moderate-to-severe), interstitial lung disease, cystic fibrosis, and pulmonary hypertension
  - Dementia or other neurological conditions
  - Diabetes (type 1 or type 2)
  - Down syndrome
  - Heart conditions (such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathies, or hypertension)
  - HIV infection
  - Immunocompromised state (weakened immune system)
  - Liver disease
  - Mental Health Conditions

- **Overweight and obesity**
- **Pregnancy**
- **Sickle cell disease or thalassemia**
- **Smoking, current or former**
- **Solid organ or blood stem cell transplant**
- **Stroke or cerebrovascular disease, which affects blood flow to the brain**
- **Substance use disorders**

- **people aged 18–49 years with underlying medical conditions may receive a booster based on their individual benefits and risks**

- **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, based on their individual benefits and risks. *This includes all residents of Intermediate Care Facilities (ICFs) and licensed community homes, all direct service professionals, provider staff, and supports coordinators.***

- **The CDC guidance recommends a booster dose for all individuals who are 18 or older who received a Janssen vaccine as their primary dose at least two months ago.**

- Any brand of vaccine may be given as a booster dose regardless of the brand of the individual's primary series.
- The Pfizer and Janssen vaccines are the same product and dose as the primary series, but the Moderna vaccine is a half dose of the same product when compared to the primary series.
- Eligible individuals are now able to schedule appointments and receive booster doses.
- **The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) will not be coordinating vaccine clinics for booster doses.**

#### **Residential Providers**

- Residential service providers are expected to identify a vaccine provider or have a plan for vaccinations of residents, which includes obtaining booster shots for eligible residents.
- Providers encountering difficulty locating vaccine resources can contact: [rapwodpemrgncysprq@pa.gov](mailto:rapwodpemrgncysprq@pa.gov).

#### **Preparedness Checklist for Long-Term Care (LTC) Facilities**

- **Evaluate the needs of your population.** Regardless of which vaccine your residents and staff received they can receive any vaccine as their booster.
- **Consider eligible healthcare staff** as potential recipients of booster doses (or a primary series if not yet vaccinated) as well.
- **Work with local pharmacies and providers** to hold booster clinics, and administer doses in your facility if possible. Any LTC facility that does not have a

provider/pharmacy partner should respond to this survey as soon as possible:

<https://form.jotform.com/212066323150139>.

### **Individuals and Families**

- Individuals who need assistance locating a vaccine provider can go to:  
[Vaccines.gov - Search for COVID-19 vaccine locations](#).
- Additional assistance is available by calling the PA Health Hotline at 1-877-724-3258.

### **Individuals Requiring Vaccination In-Home**

- Individuals who are enrolled in HealthChoices managed care can call their managed care organization (MCO) to request assistance getting their vaccine in their home.
- Individuals who are not enrolled in a Medicaid managed care organization, cannot leave their home, and are 60 years and older or are adults with a disability can call the PACE Call Center at 1-800-225-7223 or the PA LINK at 1-800-753-8827 to connect with their local Area Agency on Aging.
- More information is available at: [Vaccine Homebound \(pa.gov\)](#)

Thank you for all you have done and will continue to do to protect Pennsylvanians from COVID-19.

Questions about this announcement may be directed to [ra-  
pwotpemrgncysprq@pa.gov](mailto:rapwotpemrgncysprq@pa.gov).