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Subject: CoVP Update: ACIP recommends 3rd dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine for certain immunocompromised individuals



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

CoVP Update for August 16, 2021

ACIP recommends 3rd dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine for certain immunocompromised individuals

Dear Connecticut COVID-19 Vaccine Providers,

Last Friday, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) voted to recommend a third dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine for moderately and severely immunocompromised individuals under the FDA's Emergency Use Authorization.

Connecticut COVID-19 vaccine providers may now provide a third dose to immunocompromised patients who have completed a primary series of a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine. Providers should administer these additional doses in line with CDC guidelines.

For the sake of terminology, the "additional dose" (or third dose) currently recommended for the immunocompromised is an additional vaccine dose when the initial immune response following a primary vaccine series is likely to be insufficient.

A booster dose is a dose of vaccine administered when the initial sufficient immune response to a primary vaccine series is likely to have waned over time. The current recommendation only applies to The need for and timing of a COVID-19 booster dose have not been established.

It's important to note that CDC does **not** recommend booster doses for any population at this time. Vaccine providers should administer vaccine in accordance with the [updated EUAs](#) per the [COVID-19 vaccine provider agreement](#).

Helpful links:

[FDA announcement](#)

[ACIP presentation materials](#) and [Media statement from CDC director](#)

New CDC web page for [consumers](#) and web page for [healthcare providers](#)

Other Resources for new vaccination updates for immunocompromised:

- [CDC Yellow Book](#)
- [IDSA: Clinical Practice Guideline for Vaccination of the Immunocompromised Host \(2013\)](#)
- [ACIP: General best practices for vaccination of people with altered immunocompetence](#)

CDC Clinical Considerations: Considerations for use of an additional mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose after an initial 2-dose primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series for immunocompromised people

[Please click here to view the CDC's clinical considerations website, which has been updated to reflect this recommendation.](#) The pertinent details are also copied below.

Healthcare professionals and public health officials should consider the following for use of an additional mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose after an initial 2-dose primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series for moderately to severely immunocompromised people:

- The currently FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccines are not live vaccines and therefore can be safely administered to immunocompromised people.
- Studies indicate some immunocompromised people have a reduced immune response following a primary COVID-19 vaccine series compared to vaccine recipients who are not immunocompromised.
- Studies have further demonstrated that including an additional mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose after an initial 2-dose primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series in some immunocompromised populations may enhance immune response.
- The clinical benefit of an additional mRNA vaccine dose after an initial 2-dose primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series for immunocompromised people is not precisely known. However, for people with moderate to severe immune compromise due to a medical condition or receipt of immunosuppressive medications or treatments, the potential to increase **immune response coupled with an acceptable safety profile, support the recommendation for an additional mRNA vaccine dose after an initial 2-dose primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series.**
- The additional dose should be administered at least 28 days after the completion of the initial mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series.
- Currently there is not enough data at this time to determine whether immunocompromised people who received Johnson & Johnson's Janssen (J&J/Janssen) COVID-19 Vaccine also have an improved antibody response

following an additional dose of the same vaccine. FDA and CDC are actively working to provide guidance on this issue.

The clinical considerations for use of an additional dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine apply only to people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised. The recommendation for a third dose does not change the [definition](#) of fully vaccinated.

Per Federal recommendation, prescriptions or provider referral should not be required for immunocompromised individuals to receive a third dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Individuals who meet the criteria for additional doses of a COVID-19 mRNA vaccine should have the ability to make an appointment or attend a walk-in clinic to request a dose. A patient attestation template may be made available to providers soon, but there is no need to delay an additional dose to the immunocompromised.

CPT codes

CPT codes for the Pfizer third dose administration in immunocompromised patients have been published by the American Medical Association (AMA) and can be found on their [COVID-19 CPT vaccine and immunization codes](#) page. CDC is working closely with AMA and Moderna to complete development and publication of the codes for the third dose administration for immunocompromised individuals. Once published, we will provide an update to ensure all providers have the code to incorporate into their systems.

In addition to CPT codes, providers—specifically pharmacies—require additional billing codes and guidance provided by the National Council for Prescription Drug Programs (NCPDP). NCPDP updated their payer guidance for medical and pharmacy information systems on August 3, 2021. Current guidance is available to providers in the [NCPDP Emergency Preparedness Guidance version 1.10](#).

Be Sure to Screen for Previous COVID-19 Vaccination in CT WiZ

Prior to administering the COVID-19 vaccine, providers should screen and check patients' vaccination history in the Immunization Information System (CT WiZ). This can ensure you are administering the appropriate vaccine brand and interval between vaccinations.

- If your clinic established bi-directional data exchange, you can query CT WiZ for the patient immunization record [electronically from your EHR](#).
- Every clinic can [look up the patient immunization record](#) in the [CT WiZ user interface](#).

- If your staff need access to CT WiZ, [request a username](#) and select the 'Clinic Access' role.
- Those who signed off on the CoVP Provider Agreement as well as the primary and back-up vaccine coordinator already have access to CT WiZ.
- If you need support, please submit a [Helpdesk ticket](#).

Replacement CDC COVID Vaccination Cards

Recommendation: Post your procedure for recipients to request replacement cards, someplace visible to recipients at your clinic as well as on your website.

- If your clinic needs additional CDC COVID Vaccination Cards, contact Immunizations@ct.gov and we will email you a pdf of the card for your clinic to print (*note: these cannot be posted on your website.*) Large type print cards are also available, via pdf.

Reminder: Clinics should issue replacement CDC COVID Vaccination Cards to their vaccine recipients, should they contact you when their card is lost or needs a correction.

- DPH cannot issue a card to recipients, but DPH can issue the immunization record from CT WiZ. DPH's procedure is on our COVID Vaccine and DPH Immunization webpages at: [I lost my vaccine card, how do I get another one? \(ct.gov\)](#) and [Request an Official Immunization Record](#).

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

- Moderna 10 is available to order while supplies last.
- Pfizer shelf-life extension to November from the FDA is expected imminently.

Thank you for everything that you are doing to provide COVID-19 vaccines for residents of Connecticut!

Future Communications

The following timeline was shared by CDC:

Saturday August 14, 3 p.m. ET:

- CDC/IDSA COVID-19 Clinician Call--Additional Vaccine Doses in the Immune-Compromised; Plus the Latest on the Delta Variant and Vaccination in Pregnant Women. [Watch Recording Here](#).

Tuesday August 17, at 2PM ET, there will be a CDC COCA call.

- Topic: Additional mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines for Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised People. [Call details here](#).

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