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DIVISION OF PUBLIC AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
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Technical Bulletin

Date: December 3, 2021
Topic: COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Dose Recommendations for Adults and Emergency Use Instructions
Contact: Susan Vilardi, RN, Nevada State Immunization Program
To: All Health Care Providers and Facilities; Local Health Districts; Pharmacists

Background:

COVID-19 Vaccine Booster doses have demonstrated the ability to safely increase protection of fully vaccinated people against COVID-19 infection and severe outcomes and are an important public health tool to strengthen our defenses against the virus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Division of Public and Behavioral Health (the Division) continue to recommend to the millions of eligible individuals who are not yet vaccinated to get vaccinated as soon as possible to protect themselves, their families, loved ones and communities. The Division also strongly recommends to eligible individuals who were already fully vaccinated – specifically, older adult populations and individuals with underlying medical conditions to receive a booster dose before the holidays.

Although COVID-19 vaccines continue to work well to prevent severe illness, hospitalization, and death, including against the widely circulating Delta variant, the CDC is beginning to see reduced protection, especially among certain populations, against mild and moderate disease.

Updated COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Recommendations

On November 19, 2021, the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) expanded recommendations for booster doses to include all adults ages 18 years and older who received a Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine primary series. The booster dose may be administered at least six (6) months after the completion of a two-dose primary series of either mRNA COVID-19 vaccine product. Healthy people who were not previously recommended for a booster dose may now receive one if they completed a primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series six (6) or more months ago.

In addition, the ACIP updated recommendations for the groups who **should** receive a booster dose at least six (6) months after completing a primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series to include all individuals ages 50 years and older and all residents of long-term care settings who are 18 years and older. Although these recommendations are specific to mRNA COVID-19 vaccine recipients, individuals eligible for a booster dose are able to choose to receive [any of the COVID-19 vaccines](#) currently authorized in the U.S. for their booster dose.

There were no changes to CDC's existing [booster dose recommendations](#) for recipients of Johnson & Johnson's (J&J) Janssen COVID-19 vaccine. All individuals who received an initial dose of the J&J COVID-19 vaccine **should** receive a booster dose at least two (2) months after receiving the initial vaccination.

COVID-19 Vaccine Emergency Use Instructions

On November 17, 2021, the CDC issued Emergency Use Instructions (EUI) and updated clinical considerations to allow the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to be administered as an additional primary dose or booster dose to certain people who completed a vaccine primary series with certain COVID-19 vaccines that are not authorized or approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). These considerations ensure eligible people who were vaccinated outside of the U.S. with vaccines not authorized or approved for use in the U.S., or who received certain non-FDA authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccines through participation in some clinical trials, can get an additional primary dose or booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

The new guidance mirrors CDC's recommendations about who is eligible to receive [boosters](#) and [additional primary doses](#), allowing an additional primary dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to be administered to certain immunocompromised persons ages 12 years and older, and/or a single booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to be administered to certain adults ages 18 years and older who completed their primary vaccination with a non-FDA authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine.

Who is eligible under the EUI?

Certain people who were vaccinated outside of the United States, or who received certain non-FDA authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccines through participation in a clinical trial, can get an additional primary dose or booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. The recommendations are similar to those for people who received an FDA-authorized COVID-19 vaccine primary series:

- A single additional primary dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine may be given to certain moderately and severely immunocompromised individuals ages 12 years and older who completed a primary series of a COVID-19 vaccine that is not FDA authorized or approved *but that is listed for emergency use by the World Health Organization (WHO)*.
- A single booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine may be given to certain adults ages 18 years and older who have completed a primary series of a COVID-19 vaccine that is not FDA authorized or approved but that is listed for emergency use by WHO.

More information about the EUI recommendations can be found on the CDC's [Interim Clinical Considerations](#) webpage and on the [EUI Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers](#) and [EUI Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers](#).

Resources:

- Updated [Interim Clinical Considerations](#)
- [Booster webpage](#) for the public

Questions:

For updated guidance, please review the DPBH Technical Bulletin [website](#) and the Nevada Health Response [website](#) regularly. If you have other questions regarding COVID-19 vaccines or booster recommendations, please email dpbh-covid19vax@health.nv.gov.



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