Health Advisory Update #42: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Update: Expanded Eligibility for COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Doses

Key Messages

- After authorization by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have expanded the recommendations for booster doses to include Moderna and Johnson and Johnson/Janssen (J&J) COVID-19 vaccines as well as heterologous (mix and match) dosing.
- A Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) on the recent updates to COVID-19 booster doses was held on Tuesday, October 26, 2021 and will be posted here.

Situation

On October 20, 2021, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) expanded the emergency use authorizations (EUA) for the Moderna and the Johnson and Johnson/Janssen (J&J) COVID-19 vaccines to allow for use of a single booster dose. The expanded EUAs also allowed for heterologous (mix and match) dosing between the primary series vaccine and the booster; this allowance was also added to the Pfizer vaccine EUA. On October 21, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued a statement in support of these changes. These recommendations have been endorsed by the Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup.

Vaccine Booster Dose Recommendations

- Certain people who received Pfizer or Moderna vaccines for their primary series should receive a single vaccine booster dose at least 6 months after completing the series. The booster can be either of the mRNA or J&J vaccines.
  - Individuals age 65 years and older.
  - Individuals residing in a long-term care facility.
  - Individuals age 50 through 64 years with underlying medical conditions or at increased risk of social inequities.
- In addition, the following groups may receive a booster dose based on individual benefits and risks:
  - Individuals age 18 through 49 years, with underlying medical conditions or at increased risk of social inequities.
  - Individuals age 18 through 64 years, who are at increased risk for SARS-CoV-2 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting.
- All persons who received a J&J COVID-19 vaccine should get a single vaccine booster dose at least 2 months after their initial J&J dose. The booster can be J&J or either of the mRNA vaccines.
- Note that the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine booster dose is a half dose (50 µg of antigen in 0.25 mL) compared to the Moderna primary series.
• The Pfizer and J&J booster doses are equivalent to doses in each primary series (Pfizer, 30 µg of antigen in 0.3 ml; J&J, 5×10¹⁰ virus particles in 0.5 mL).
• Individuals may choose which of the three authorized vaccines they would like to receive if they are eligible for a booster dose.
• The CDC has updated it’s COVID-19 vaccine clinical considerations and will be releasing a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) on the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations.
• On Tuesday, October 26, 2021, CDC hosted a live webinar: What Clinicians Need to Know About the Recent Updates to CDC’s Recommendations for COVID-19 Booster Vaccination. A recording of the activity will be available here.

Actions Requested

1. Follow recommendations for booster doses of Pfizer, Moderna, and J&J vaccines as indicated above. Self-attestation by patients that they are eligible is acceptable for vaccine boosters. A reference table on COVID-19 additional doses and boosters follows this CAHAN.
2. Remain up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccine clinical considerations including contraindications and precautions.
3. Providers should consider co-administering COVID vaccines with other vaccines such as seasonal influenza vaccine.
4. Report vaccine-related adverse events and deaths and vaccine administration errors to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), and to the County Immunization Program at IZINFO.HHSA@sdcounty.ca.gov or by fax at (619) 692-5677.

Resources

• People with Certain Medical Conditions | CDC
• Who Is Eligible for a COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot? | CDC
• Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers (fda.gov)
• Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers (fda.gov)
• Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers (fda.gov)
• COVID-19 Booster Vaccines (ca.gov)
• COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Questions & Answers (ca.gov)

Thank you for your participation.

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## COVID-19 Vaccines, Additional Dose, and Booster

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vaccine Brand</th>
<th>Dose &amp; Recommended Timeline</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Age</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>12-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pfizer-BioNTech</strong></td>
<td>Primary 2-doses</td>
<td>at least 28 days after the 1st dose</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Additional (3rd) dose*</td>
<td>at least 28 days after 2nd Pfizer dose</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>for <strong>immunocompromised</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Booster dose**</td>
<td>at least 6 months after 2nd Pfizer dose</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Long-term care facility resident</td>
<td>at least 6 months after 2nd Pfizer dose</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Underlying <strong>medical condition</strong> or increased risk of <strong>social inequalities</strong></td>
<td>at least 6 months after 2nd Pfizer dose</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Booster dose**</td>
<td>at least 6 months after 2nd Pfizer dose</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High risk of severe COVID-19 or increased risk of exposure from <strong>work or institutional setting</strong></td>
<td>at least 6 months after 2nd Pfizer dose</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Moderna</strong></td>
<td>Primary 2-doses</td>
<td>at least 28 days after the 1st dose</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Additional (3rd) dose*</td>
<td>at least 28 days after 2nd Moderna dose</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
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<td>for <strong>immunocompromised</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>Booster dose**</td>
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<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>High risk of severe COVID-19 or increased risk of exposure from <strong>work or institutional setting</strong></td>
<td>at least 6 months after 2nd Moderna dose</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Johnson</strong></td>
<td>1 dose</td>
<td>at least 2 months after primary Johnson &amp; Johnson dose</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janssen/Johnson &amp; Johnson</td>
<td>Booster dose**</td>
<td>at least 2 months after primary Johnson &amp; Johnson dose</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table updated on October 25, 2021

*An [additional dose](#) is recommended by the CDC for moderately to severely immunocompromised people four weeks after receiving the second Moderna or Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. An additional dose is needed because immunocompromised people sometimes do not build enough protection after the first two doses.

**A [booster dose](#) six months after the second dose is recommended by the CDC for ages 65+ and certain high-risk groups, and available for other age ranges where COVID-19 exposure or serious disease is more likely. Since one’s immunity to COVID-19 may wane over time, a booster dose is needed to maintain longer protection. Mix and Match: Individuals may receive a booster dose of any of the available COVID-19 vaccines following completion of primary vaccination of a different COVID-19 vaccine. The recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now allow for this type of mix and match dosing for booster shots.

Please check the [COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility webpage](#) for updates to this table.

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