



To: CAHAN San Diego Participants

Date: September 28, 2021

From: Public Health Services

Health Advisory Update #40: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Vaccine Update: Pfizer Vaccine Booster Dosing

Key Messages

- A booster dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine can now be administered 6 months after completion of the Pfizer primary series to individuals meeting criteria set out by the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and described below.
- A Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) on booster dose of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is scheduled for [Tuesday, September 28, 2021, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm \(PT\)](#).

Situation

On September 22, 2021 the United States [Food and Drug Administration \(FDA\) amended the emergency use authorization](#) (EUA) for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to allow for use of a single booster dose, administered at least six months after completion of the primary series. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) issued its recommendations for the additional dose on September 23, 2021, summarized [in the statement of CDC Director Rochelle Walensky](#), on September 24, 2021. Based on the FDA, ACIP and CDC actions, the [Western States Scientific Safety Review Workgroup issued recommendations](#) on the same day to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH).

Vaccine Booster Dose Recommendation

On Friday, September 24, 2021, the CDPH issued the recommendations below. The following **should** receive a booster dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine at least six months after the primary series:

- 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
- Individuals age 18 through 64 years, who are at increased risk for SARS-CoV-2 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting.

A booster dose is recommended six months after the second dose of Pfizer mRNA vaccine. It is being recommended because research shows that one's immunity may wane over time, especially in the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions.

Those that completed the primary vaccination series with the Moderna or Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) vaccines are not yet eligible for a booster dose and should not receive the Pfizer vaccine as a booster dose.

Additional Vaccine Dose

- An additional third dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna) has already [been approved for persons with moderately and severely immunocompromised conditions](#), after an initial 2-dose primary mRNA vaccine series (Pfizer or Moderna).
- A third additional dose is recommended by the CDC for moderately to severely immunocompromised people four weeks after receiving their second Moderna or Pfizer vaccine. That's because immunocompromised people sometimes do not build enough of a protective response after the first two doses, and a third dose can help mount an immune response.

Other Points

- COVID-19 vaccines can be co-administered with other vaccines, including seasonal influenza vaccine.
- There is no present recommendation whether an individual who received a third dose should receive a booster dose, and the CDC does not currently recommend a person receive more than three mRNA COVID-19 vaccine doses total.
- A Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) on booster doses of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is scheduled for [Tuesday, September 28, 2021, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm \(PT\)](#).

Actions Requested

1. Follow recommendations for an additional dose of Pfizer dose as indicated above. Self-attestation by patients that they are eligible is acceptable for vaccine boosters.
2. Remain up-to-date on COVID-19 vaccine [clinical considerations including contraindications and precautions](#). Providers providing Pfizer vaccine should consider coadministration of routine vaccines with COVID-19 vaccine to catch children up on any missed vaccines.
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

[Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)
[People with Certain Medical Conditions | CDC](#)
[Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot | CDC](#)

Thank you for your participation.

CAHAN San Diego

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