

## **Health Advisory**

### **Updated Guidance about COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots November 22, 2021**

#### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- People aged  $\geq 18$  who received a primary series of Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine may receive a booster dose **at least 6 months** after completing their primary series. The CDC recommends that people aged  $\geq 50$  years or those  $\geq 18$  years living in a long-term care facility **should** receive a booster dose.
- People aged  $\geq 18$  years who received a single dose Janssen primary series should receive a booster dose **at least 2 months** after receiving their vaccine.
- The Pfizer-BioNTech and Janssen boosters are identical to the doses provided in the primary series, while the Moderna booster dose is **half** the original dose, **50 mcg in 0.25mL**.
- A single booster dose of any FDA approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccine may be administered as a heterologous (“mix and match”) booster following completion of a primary vaccination with a different FDA approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccine.
- Emergency Use Instructions (EUI) issued by the CDC allows certain people who received a non-FDA approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccine outside of the United States or through participation in a clinical trial to receive an additional primary vaccine dose (in certain immunocompromised persons) or a booster dose with the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

Ongoing data continues to support protection against infection, severe illness, hospitalization, and death with COVID-19 vaccinations. However, observational studies have found that a booster dose of Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna (mRNA-1273) or Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) are safe and effective at decreasing the risk of severe disease and infection related to COVID-19.

- Persons aged  $\geq 18$  years who received primary vaccination with the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines may receive a single COVID-19 vaccine booster dose **at least 6 months** after completing the primary vaccine series. The CDC recommends that people aged  $\geq 50$  years or those  $\geq 18$  years living in a long-term care facility **should** receive a booster dose, and those aged 18-49 **may** receive a booster dose **6 months** after their primary vaccine series.
- Persons aged  $\geq 18$  years who received their primary vaccination with the single dose Janssen COVID-19 vaccine **should** receive a single COVID-19 vaccine booster dose **at least 2 months** later.

#### **Heterologous (“Mix and Match”) Booster Dose**

A single booster dose of any of the FDA approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccines may be administered as a heterologous booster dose following completion of primary vaccination with a different FDA approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccine.

- The dosing interval of a heterologous booster dose should be the same as authorized for booster doses (i.e., a heterologous booster dose should be administered **at least 6 months** following a primary series of Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna and **at least 2 months** following a primary single-dose Janssen vaccine).
- Heterologous dosing is acceptable **for booster doses only**. It should not be considered for primary vaccine series or additional doses of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine for moderately to severely immunocompromised persons.

#### **Additional Primary and Booster Doses in Certain Persons Who Completed Primary Vaccination with Vaccines Not Approved/Authorized in the United States**

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has issued Emergency Use Instructions (EUI) to provide information about the use of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine as an additional primary dose in certain immunocompromised persons aged  $\geq 12$  years and as a booster dose in adults aged  $\geq 18$  years after completion of primary vaccination with certain non-FDA authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccines.

- A single additional primary dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine (30 mcg in 0.3 mL) should be administered intramuscularly to certain persons aged  $\geq 12$  years **at least 28 days** after completion of primary vaccination with non-FDA authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccines.
- A single booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by Pfizer-BioNTech (30 mcg in 0.3 mL) may be administered intramuscularly to adults aged  $\geq 18$  years of age and older **at least 6 months** after completion of primary vaccination with non-FDA authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccines.

### **Co-administration of Booster Doses with other Vaccines**

- COVID-19 vaccine booster doses (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Janssen) may be given with other vaccines, without regard to timing, including co-administration of a COVID-19 vaccine and other vaccines on the same day.
- If multiple vaccines are administered at a single visit, administer each injection in a different injection site.

The Pfizer-BioNTech and Janssen booster doses are the same vaccine at the same dose as the primary series. The Moderna booster dose is **50 mcg in 0.25mL (half the dose of a primary vaccine dose of Moderna)**. Side effects reported from booster shots also remain similar to the primary series. The most commonly reported side effects include soreness at the injection site, tiredness, headache, muscle and/or joint pain, chills, swollen lymph nodes in same arm as the injection, nausea and vomiting, and fever. Swollen lymph nodes in the underarm were observed more frequently following the Pfizer and Moderna booster dose than after the primary two-dose series.

At this time, anyone who has completed their primary series of vaccination is considered fully vaccinated, regardless of whether they have received a booster dose. Moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals who received Pfizer or Moderna remain eligible for a third dose of the same vaccine product they initially received, 28 days after their primary series. These individuals may receive a booster dose **at least 6 months** following their third primary mRNA vaccine dose.

Individuals who qualify for a booster dose may receive their vaccine at a PDPH clinic regardless of where they received their primary vaccination series. Individuals may also choose to receive their vaccine at a pharmacy or their healthcare provider's office.

### **Resources:**

- [Emergency Use Authorization \(EUA\) of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to Prevent Coronavirus Disease 2019](#)
- [EUI-HCP.pdf \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: FDA Expands Eligibility for COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters | FDA](#)
- [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine | FDA](#)
- [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine | FDA](#)
- [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)