

## ***Health Advisory***

### **Updated Guidance about COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots December 13, 2021**

#### **SUMMARY POINTS**

- People **aged ≥16** who received a primary **Pfizer** series and people **aged ≥18** years who received a primary **Moderna** series should receive a COVID-19 booster dose **at least 6 months** after completing their primary series.
- People **aged ≥18** years who received a single dose **Janssen** primary series should receive a COVID-19 booster dose **at least 2 months** after vaccination.
- The Pfizer-BioNTech and Janssen boosters are identical to the doses provided in the initial series, while the Moderna booster dose is **half** the original dose, **50µg 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. Individuals **under 18 years old** who received a primary Pfizer series **must** receive a Pfizer-BioNTech booster dose.

Ongoing studies continue to support that COVID-19 vaccines provide significant protection against infection, severe illness, hospitalization, and death. However, observational studies have found that a booster dose of Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna (mRNA-1273) or Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) is safe and effective at further decreasing the risk of severe disease and infection over time.

#### **Booster Doses for Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna (mRNA-1273) COVID-19 Vaccines**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) endorse providing booster shots to the following individuals who have received Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna as their primary vaccine series against COVID-19:

- People **aged ≥16** who completed a primary Pfizer series **at least 6 months ago**.
- People **aged ≥18** years who completed a primary Moderna series **at least 6 months ago**.

#### **Booster Doses for Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 Vaccines**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) endorse providing booster shots to individuals **18 years or older** who received a single dose Janssen primary series.

- These individuals **should** receive a booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine **at least 2 months** after receiving a single dose Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) COVID-19 vaccine.

#### **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 for those **aged ≥18**. **Individuals under 18 years old who received a primary Pfizer series must receive a Pfizer-BioNTech booster dose.**
- The dosing interval of a heterologous booster dose should be the same as authorized for the same vaccine as that originally received for eligible persons (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 3<sup>rd</sup> doses for moderately to severely immunocompromised persons.

### **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 **50µg in 0.25mL** (half the dose of a primary vaccination of Moderna). At this time, anyone who has completed their primary series of vaccination is considered fully vaccinated, regardless of whether they have received the booster dose. 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.

Moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals who completed a primary series of the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine remain eligible for a 3<sup>rd</sup> dose of the same vaccine product they initially received, **one month** after their primary series. Moderately or severely immunocompromised people **aged ≥ 16** who have completed a primary series and additional dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine should receive a Pfizer-BioNTech booster dose **at least 6 months following the additional dose**. Moderately or severely immunocompromised people **aged ≥18** who have completed a primary series and additional dose of the Moderna vaccine should receive a single COVID-19 booster dose (Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, or Janssen) **at least 6 months** after completing their additional Moderna dose.

Individuals who qualify for booster doses 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](#)
- [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine | FDA](#)
- [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine | FDA](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: FDA Expands Eligibility for Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Booster Dose to 16- and 17-Year-Olds | FDA](#)
- [Who Is Eligible for a COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot? | CDC](#)
- [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)