

COVID-19 BOOSTER SHOT INFORMATION

Community Health Connections will continue to follow guidance as the FDA approves usage and the CDC reviews and releases recommendations around COVID-19 booster shots and additional doses. As such, the material seen below may be subject to change. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

WHO NEEDS A COVID-19 BOOSTER SHOT?

On September 22, 2021, federal health officials and medical experts announced that a **Pfizer-BioNTech** COVID-19 single dose booster shot will be allowed for use for the following groups:

- People 65 years and older and residents in long-term care settings **should** receive a booster shot;
- People aged 50–64 years with underlying medical conditions **should** receive a booster shot;
- People aged 18–49 years with underlying medical conditions **may** receive a booster shot based on their individual benefits and risks; and
- People aged 18–64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting **may** receive a booster shot.

The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 booster should be given at least six months after receiving the primary two doses of vaccine.

*FDA's authorization and CDC's recommendation applies only to the **Pfizer-BioNTech** COVID-19 vaccine.*

WHEN WILL THE BOOSTER COVID-19 VACCINE BE AVAILABLE?

Booster doses of the **Pfizer-BioNTech** COVID-19 vaccine are **available now** at CHC. To make an appointment, please call 978-878-8100.

WHAT SHOULD I DO NEXT?

For the most current information, please visit the CDC and Mass.gov websites.

You can also visit the state's vaccine finder website to find a retail pharmacy or other location to get a booster injection.

If you have further questions about the booster shot or want to make an appointment, please call CHC at 978-878-8100.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A BOOSTER SHOT AND AN ADDITIONAL DOSE?

An additional dose of mRNA vaccine is meant for individuals who have a chronic medical condition or take medications that cause a moderately to severely compromised immune system. This third dose should be given at least 28 days after the completion of the initial 2-dose mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series. A third dose of the same mRNA vaccine, **Pfizer-BioNTech** or **Moderna**, should be used. Your CDC vaccination card will indicate which vaccine series received.

A booster shot is given to help increase protection and immunity and can be received at least six months after receiving a primary series of only the **Pfizer-BioNTech** initial 2-dose mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series.

CAN I MIX AND MATCH THE VACCINES?

A third dose of the same mRNA vaccine should be used. Your CDC vaccination card will indicate whether you received the **Pfizer-BioNTech** or **Moderna** COVID-19 vaccine.

A person should not receive more than three mRNA vaccine doses.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I RECEIVED THE MODERNA OR J&J/JANSSEN VACCINE?

Though the CDC is anticipating a booster shot for these vaccines, the current recommendations do not apply.

I AM ELIGIBLE FOR A BOOSTER SHOT. CAN I ALSO GET MY FLU SHOT AT THE SAME TIME?

Yes! You are able to receive both your flu vaccination shot and a COVID-19 booster shot during the same visit.

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Sources: CDC.gov, FDA.gov & Mass.gov



Community Health Connections

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