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Commissioner

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TO: Points of Dispensing participating in the COVID-19 Vaccination Program

FROM: Judith M. Persichilli, R.N., B.S.N., M.A. Commissioner

SUBJECT: Provision of a Second mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Dose for Adults Ages 50+, for Persons with Immunocompromise Ages 12+, and for Janssen Recipients Ages 18+

Effective March 29, 2022, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) updated their recommendations to allow certain populations to receive a second booster dose to increase their individual protection. This followed the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) issuance of updated emergency use authorizations earlier on March 29, 2022.

The following populations are eligible for second mRNA (Pfizer or Moderna) booster doses at least four months after their first booster doses:

- **All people 50 years of age and older**
- **People 12 years of age and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised**
- **People 18 through 49 years of age who received a Johnson & Johnson/Janssen primary series and a Johnson & Johnson/Janssen first booster**

At this time:

- "Fully vaccinated" remains defined as at least two weeks after their second dose in a two-dose series, such as the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine. This definition applies to all people, including those who receive an additional dose as recommended for moderate to severely immunocompromised people and those who receive a booster dose.
- "Up to date" remains defined as a person has received all recommended COVID-19 vaccines, including a booster dose when eligible. According to the CDC as of March 30, 2022, "Getting a second booster dose is not necessary to be considered up to date at this time" (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>).

This memo serves to alert you to the amended use of the Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccines in New Jersey. Please share this information with appropriate staff in your program. Thank you for your partnership in this initiative. This memo supplements the other materials circulated by the New Jersey Department of Health (NJDOH) regarding the provision, delivery, and administration of COVID-19 vaccines. https://www.state.nj.us/health/cd/topics/covid2019_vaccination.shtml. Points of

Dispensing may contact the New Jersey Department of Health Vaccine Operations Center at Vax.Operations@doh.nj.gov with any further questions.

Eligible population

Effective March 29, 2022, certain populations are eligible to receive a second mRNA (Pfizer or Moderna) booster dose:

- All people 50 years of age and older.
- People 12 years of age and older who are moderately or severely immunocompromised.
- People 18 through 49 years of age who received a Johnson & Johnson/Janssen primary series and a Johnson & Johnson/Janssen first booster dose.

Meanwhile, all adolescents and adults aged 12 years and older are eligible to receive a first booster dose:

- All adolescents and adults (aged 12 and older) who received a primary series with Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.
- All adults (aged 18 and older) who received a primary series with Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.
- All adults (aged 18 and older) who received one Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine.

Additionally, the following remain eligible for the primary vaccine series:

- All persons aged five through 11 years are eligible for the Pfizer-BioNTech pediatric formulation COVID-19 two-dose series.
- All persons aged 12 through 17 years are eligible for the Pfizer-BioNTech adolescent/adult formulation COVID-19 two-dose series.
- All persons aged 18 and older are eligible for the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna two-dose series, and for the Johnson & Johnson/Janssen one-dose vaccine.
- Persons aged five and older who are moderately to severely immune compromised are eligible for an additional dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines.

All points of dispensing are advised to make booster doses available to those who self identify as eligible under the above criterion. Providers must accept self-reported eligibility from the vaccine recipient as sufficient and are not permitted to require individuals to present documentation or a note from a medical provider to demonstrate eligibility. To establish the interval, if a person does not present with a vaccination record or the Docket app, providers can query the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJIS).

Note:

1. Despite the upcoming sunset of the HRSA COVID-19 Uninsured Program (<https://www.hrsa.gov/coviduninsuredclaim/submission-deadline>), all COVID-19 providers must continue to offer COVID-19 vaccines at zero out-of-pocket cost to vaccine recipients, regardless of the recipients' insurance status. In accordance with the CDC Provider Agreement, a person may not be denied vaccination based on their coverage status. More information here: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/vaccination-provider-support.html#requirements>.
2. The CDC has issued Emergency Use Instructions (EUI), the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines to facilitate completion of primary, additional and/or booster doses for certain individuals including those who previously received certain non-FDA authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccines: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/eui/index.html>.

Administration timeline

The CDC’s Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Approved or Authorized in the United States outlines updated recommendations for the intervals between doses: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html>.

mRNA vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna) remain the preferred COVID-19 vaccines.

General population COVID-19 vaccination schedule:

Age Cohort	Primary series vaccine manufacturer	Primary Series		Boosters		
		Number of doses in primary series	Interval between 1 st dose and 2 nd dose	Number of booster doses	Interval between primary series and 1 st booster dose	Interval between 1 st booster dose and 2 nd booster dose
Aged 0 through 4 years old	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Aged 5 through 11 years old	Pediatric Pfizer	2 doses	3 weeks	N/A	N/A	N/A
Aged 12 through 17 years old	Adolescent /Adult Pfizer	2 doses	3 to 8 weeks	1 dose	At least 5 months	N/A
Aged 18 through 49 years old	Adolescent /Adult Pfizer	2 doses	3 to 8 weeks	1 dose	At least 5 months	N/A
	Moderna	2 doses	4 to 8 weeks	1 dose	At least 5 months	N/A
	Johnson & Johnson (Janssen)	1 dose	N/A	2 doses (2 nd booster only if 1 st booster was J&J; 2 nd booster must be mRNA)	At least 2 months	At least 4 months
Aged 50 years old or older	Adolescent /Adult Pfizer	2 doses	3 to 8 weeks	2 dose	At least 5 months	At least 4 months
	Moderna	2 doses	4 to 8 weeks	2 dose	At least 5 months	At least 4 months
	Johnson & Johnson (Janssen)	1 dose	N/A	2 doses (2 nd booster dose must be mRNA)	At least 2 months	At least 4 months

COVID-19 vaccination schedule for persons who are [moderately or severely immunocompromised](#):

Age Cohort	Primary series vaccine manufacturer	Primary Series			Boosters		
		Number of doses in primary series	Interval between 1 st dose and 2 nd dose	Interval between 2 nd dose and 3 rd dose (“additional dose”)	Number of booster doses	Interval between primary series and 1 st booster dose	Interval between 1 st booster dose and 2 nd booster dose
Aged 0 through 4 years old	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Aged 5 through 11 years old	Pediatric Pfizer	3 doses	3 weeks	At least 4 weeks	N/A	N/A	N/A
Aged 12 through 17 years old	Adolescent /Adult Pfizer	3 doses	3 weeks	At least 4 weeks	2 doses	At least 3 months	At least 4 months
Aged 18 and older	Adolescent /Adult Pfizer	3 doses	3 weeks	At least 4 weeks	2 doses	At least 3 months	At least 4 months
	Moderna	3 doses	4 weeks	At least 4 weeks	2 doses	At least 3 months	At least 4 months
	Johnson & Johnson (Janssen)	2 doses (2 nd dose should be mRNA)	4 weeks	N/A	2 doses (2 nd booster dose must be mRNA)	At least 2 months	At least 4 months

Note:

1. Additional timing-related clinical considerations can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html>. Recommendations include, for example, not to delay COVID-19 vaccination for those with prior SARS-CoV-2 infection and not to delay COVID-19 vaccination for those who are pregnant, lactating, or trying to get pregnant.
2. Guidance for how to serve a person who initiated COVID-19 vaccination outside of the United States (including those who received a non-FDA-authorized vaccine) can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/interim-considerations-us.html#appendix-a>.

Scheduling

Update all appointment schedulers to account for updated administration timelines. Points of dispensing (PODs) must continue to be listed on the [New Jersey COVID-19 Information Hub](#) and your POD must update NJDOH in a timely manner if any information on the state website is incomplete or out-of-date.

Before a vaccination recipient departs the vaccination site, PODs should schedule each vaccine recipient for their next recommended dose at the appropriate interval.

PODs must use recall and reminder methods to message eligibility for primary series completion and booster completion to COVID-19 vaccine recipients who are eligible for their next dose.

In addition to appointments, walk-ins should still be accommodated. This is especially important to ensure timely access without barriers for those who are unvaccinated, those newly eligible (e.g. just turned five years old), and those due for their second, third, or fourth dose.

Site Readiness

To accommodate as many eligible vaccine recipients as soon as possible, all active sites should prepare to have additional vaccines on hand at all vaccine events, provide night and weekend hours, accommodate walk-ins, update appointment availability reflected on the New Jersey Vaccine Appointment Finder (<https://covid19.nj.gov/finder>), and share information with NJDOH about pop-up vaccination clinics to be included in the COVID-19 Community Calendar (<https://covid19.nj.gov/pages/communitycalendar>). Sites are also encouraged to actively promote the availability of primary series and booster doses. If additional vaccine supply is needed at a site, please be in touch with New Jersey Department of Health to arrange for allocation and/or transfer.

To the extent possible while maintaining appropriate vaccine stewardship, all points of dispensing are expected to optimize use of all COVID-19 vaccines. No vaccination opportunity should be missed, so sites should request and carry sufficient inventory to vaccinate at capacity.

Federal recommendation

On Tuesday, March 29, 2022, the FDA issued revised EUAs with updated fact sheets for the mRNA vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna): <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/coronavirus-covid-19-update-fda-authorizes-second-booster-dose-two-covid-19-vaccines-older-and>.

On Tuesday, March 29, 2022, the CDC adopted recommendations for an additional booster dose: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/s0328-covid-19-boosters.html>.

Current revised EUAs with updated fact sheets and translations for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized and approved COVID-19 vaccines:

- For Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine: <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/comirnaty-and-pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine>
- For Moderna vaccine: <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/spikevax-and-moderna-covid-19-vaccine>
- For Johnson & Johnson/Janssen vaccine: <https://www.fda.gov/emergency-preparedness-and-response/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/janssen-covid-19-vaccine>

The CDC issued Emergency Use Instructions (EUI) for certain people who completed a vaccine primary series with certain COVID-19 vaccines that are not authorized or approved by the FDA. Current fact sheets: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/eui/index.html>

Additional guidance

- Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Approved or Authorized in the United States: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html>
- World Health Organization Emergency Use List: <https://extranet.who.int/pqweb/vaccines/vaccinescovid-19-vaccine-eui-issued>

Provider education

Please ensure vaccination providers are trained and well versed in the updated vaccine information, provider fact sheet, and clinical considerations. We expect providers to be prepared to address questions from their patients and their families. Information about COVID-19 vaccines and training materials is available through the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/index.html>. Please see CDC's Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html>

Please also note the CDC's COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Requirements and Support: <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/vaccination-provider-support.html#provider-agreement>.

Consumer education

Points of dispensing play a critical role in building trust in vaccination. Please note CDC's dedicated webpage with information on staying Up to Date on COVID-19 vaccination: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>.

Information specific to those who are moderately or severely immunocompromised is available: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html>.
