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August 13, 2021 Time 2000 (8:00 PM EDT)  
NH-HAN 20210813



NH DIVISION OF  
Public Health Services

improving health, preventing disease, reducing costs for all  
Department of Health and Human Services



## Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Outbreak, Update # 44 *mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine 3<sup>rd</sup> Dose Recommendations*

- On August 12<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) [authorized](#) use of a 3<sup>rd</sup> dose of the [Pfizer-BioNTech](#) and [Moderna](#) COVID-19 vaccines for certain immunocompromised persons. The Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) amendment does NOT apply to the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, or to individuals who received the Janssen vaccine as a primary series.
- CDC has updated their [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States](#).
- The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended a 3<sup>rd</sup> dose of either the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine (for persons ≥12 years) or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine (for persons ≥18 years) following a primary 2-dose mRNA vaccine series, for people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised due to a medical condition or immunosuppressive treatment. For a list of potential conditions that would cause a person to be moderately and severely immunocompromised, see CDC's clinical guidance linked above.
- Additional ACIP recommendations include the following:
  - The 3<sup>rd</sup> dose should be the same mRNA vaccine as the primary series.
  - An alternate mRNA vaccine product can be used if the primary series product is not available.
  - The 3<sup>rd</sup> dose should be administered at least 28 days after completion of the initial primary series.
  - Currently there are insufficient data to support administration of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose after a primary Janssen COVID-19 vaccine in immunocompromised persons.
  - Serologic/antibody testing to assess immune response prior to administering a 3<sup>rd</sup> vaccine dose is NOT recommended at this time.
  - Patients seeking vaccination in locations outside their medical homes (e.g., commercial pharmacies) can self-attest as to their immunocompromising condition.
- Continue to counsel your patients who are immunocompromised that they remain at risk from COVID-19 (even after a 3<sup>rd</sup> dose of the vaccine), and should continue to take precautions to protect themselves from COVID-19, including wearing a mask, staying 6 feet apart from others they don't live with, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces.
  - Close contacts of immunocompromised people should be strongly encouraged to be vaccinated against COVID-19 with a primary vaccine series.
- For public health purposes, immunocompromised people are still considered "fully vaccinated" when they are at least 14 days beyond receipt of their second dose of either the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, or 14 days beyond receipt of the single dose Janssen vaccine.

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- For any questions regarding this notification, please call the NH DHHS, DPHS, Bureau of Infectious Disease Control at (603) 271-4496 during business hours (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.).
- If you are calling after hours or on the weekend, please call the New Hampshire Hospital switchboard at (603) 271-5300 and request the Public Health Professional on-call.
- To change your contact information in the NH Health Alert Network, please send an email to [DHHS.Health.Alert@dhhs.nh.gov](mailto:DHHS.Health.Alert@dhhs.nh.gov).

Status: Actual  
Message Type: Alert  
Severity: Moderate  
Sensitivity: Not Sensitive  
Message Identifier: NH-HAN 2021 COVID-19 Update 44  
Delivery Time: 12 hours  
Acknowledgement: No  
Distribution Method: Email, Fax  
Distributed to: PPhysicians, Physician Assistants, Practice Managers, Infection Control Practitioners, Infectious Disease Specialists, Community Health Centers, Hospitals, Hospital CEOs, Hospital Emergency Departments, EMS, Nurses, NHHA, Pharmacists, Laboratory Response Network, Manchester Health Department, Nashua Health Department, Public Health Networks, DHHS Outbreak Team, DPHS Investigation Team, DPHS Management Team, Northeast State Epidemiologists, Zoonotic Alert Team, Health Officers, Deputy Health Officers, MRC, NH Schools, EWIDS, Dialysis & Transplant Clinics, STD Clinics, Immunization Practices, Travel Centers, Influenza Sentinels, Urgent Care Centers, Ambulatory Surgical Centers, Walk-in Clinics, Poison Center, Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Centers, Long-Term Care Facilities, Community Mental Health Centers, Health Departments, Internal Medicine, Occupational Health, Gastroenterology, Schools and Daycare Providers, Regional Public Health Networks, Environmental Services, Family Planning Programs, Department of Corrections, Home Care Providers, Local and State Partners, Area Agencies

From: Benjamin P. Chan, MD, MPH; State Epidemiologist  
Originating Agency: NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services

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- See ACIP meeting [presentation slides](#) for a science overview of the impact of an additional 3<sup>rd</sup> dose in people who are immunocompromised:
    - Preliminary experimental and observational data suggest that a 3<sup>rd</sup> mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose in immunocompromised people may enhance antibody response and increases the proportion of people who have an immunologic response to the COVID-19 vaccine.
    - There is no efficacy or effectiveness studies of COVID-19 prevention following a 3<sup>rd</sup> dose.
    - No serious adverse events were observed following a 3<sup>rd</sup> dose, and reactogenicity of a 3<sup>rd</sup> dose was similar to prior doses.
  - A CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) webinar is planned for providers early next week to discuss these updates:  
<https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/index.asp> (pending scheduling).
  - NH DPHS will discuss these updated recommendations at our upcoming **Healthcare Provider and Public Health Partner** webinar this Thursday 8/19, from 12:00 – 1:00 pm:
    - Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/94841259025>
    - Call-in phone number: (646) 558-8656
    - Meeting ID: 948 4125 9025
    - Password: 003270