

# THIS IS AN OFFICIAL NH DHHS HEALTH ALERT

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## 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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- 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

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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).

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From: Benjamin P. Chan, MD, MPH; State Epidemiologist  
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