

Montana Health Alert Network

DPHHS HAN

UPDATE

Cover Sheet

DATE

August 18, 2021

SUBJECT

CDC Recommends 3rd Dose of mRNA Vaccine for Immunocompromised People

INSTRUCTIONS

DISTRIBUTE to your local HAN contacts. This HAN is intended for general sharing of information.

- Time for Forwarding: **As Soon As Possible**
- Please forward to DPHHS at hhshan@mt.gov
- **Remove this cover sheet before redistributing and replace it with your own**



For LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT reference only
DPHHS Subject Matter Resource for more information regarding this HAN, contact:
DPHHS CDCP

Immunization Section
1-406-444-5580

For technical issues related to the HAN message contact the Emergency Preparedness Section at 1-406-444-0919

DPHHS Health Alert Hotline:
1-800-701-5769

DPHHS HAN Website:
www.han.mt.gov

REMOVE THIS COVER SHEET BEFORE REDISTRIBUTING AND REPLACE IT WITH YOUR OWN

Please ensure that DPHHS is included on your HAN distribution list.
hhshan@mt.gov

Categories of Health Alert Messages:

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Information Service: passes along low level priority messages that do not fit other HAN categories and are for informational purposes only.

Please update your HAN contact information on the Montana Public Health Directory

DPHHS HAN

Information Sheet



DATE

August 18, 2021

SUBJECT

CDC recommends 3rd Dose of mRNA Vaccine for Immunocompromised People

BACKGROUND

On August 13, 2021, the ACIP voted 11-0 to recommend an additional dose of Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines for immunocompromised individuals. This additional dose should match the dose type of the mRNA vaccine in the primary series, but heterologous additional dose is permitted if this is not feasible. The additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine should be administered at least 28 days after completion of the primary mRNA vaccine series.

NOTE: This is not a booster dose. This is an additional dose for persons in whom the immune response may have been suppressed following the first two doses.

Immunocompromised individuals who are recommended to receive an additional dose of mRNA vaccine will self-attest their immunocompromised status to reduce barriers to vaccination. Note that “fully vaccinated” status is still considered to be 2 weeks after two doses (primary series) of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, or 2 weeks after one dose on Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, even for immunocompromised individuals. More below.

Due to insufficient data, the EUA amendment for an additional dose does not apply to Janssen COVID-19 vaccine or to individuals who received Janssen COVID-19 as a primary series.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Healthcare Providers:

All providers should continue to recommend COVID-19 vaccination all individuals age 12+ who are eligible for vaccine to reduce the risk of infection, serious illness or death, as well as reduce transmission to others, many of whom may be at increased risk.

A third dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine should be considered for persons who are moderately to severely immunocompromised and have received their second dose of mRNA vaccine at least 28 days prior.

Persons considered immunocompromised are:

People with certain medical conditions or people receiving treatments that are associated with moderate to severe immune compromise. This included about **~7 million Americans or 2.7% of US adults.**

- Active or recent treatment for solid tumor and hematologic malignancies;
- Receipt of solid-organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy;
- Receipt of CAR-T-cell or hematopoietic stem cell transplant (within 2 years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy);

- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge Syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome);
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection; or/and
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids (i.e., ≥ 20 mg prednisone or equivalent per day), alkylating agents, antimetabolites, transplant-related immunosuppressive drugs, cancer chemotherapeutic agents classified as severely immunosuppressive, tumor-necrosis (TNF) blockers, and other biologic agents that are immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory.

Serologic testing or cellular immune testing outside of the context of research studies is not recommended by CDC at this time. A person should not receive more than three mRNA COVID-19 vaccine doses.

Review the updated *Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering the Vaccine* (Vaccination Providers).

<https://www.fda.gov/media/144413/download>

Review the *Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers*.

<https://www.fda.gov/media/144414/download>

Provide all patients the *Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers* prior to the administration.

<https://www.fda.gov/media/144414/download>

Review the CDC *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>

Local Health Jurisdictions

- Continue to work with local vaccine providers to deliver and administer COVID-19 vaccines in your community.
- Administer an additional dose of mRNA vaccine to people who self-report as immunocompromised.
- Refer to the ACIP guidance when questions regarding immunocompromised persons arise.
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/hcp/acip-recs/general-recs/immunocompetence.html>
- Continue to recommend safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines to all eligible community members in your jurisdiction.

Please share this HAN with relevant partners at your discretion.

Resources

Updated 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>

Consumer information regarding COVID vaccines in moderately to severely immunocompromised people.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html>

Guidance for providers talking to patients who are immunocompromised.

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/immunocompromised-patients.html>

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Letter of Authorization.

<https://www.fda.gov/media/144412/download>

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers Administering the Vaccine (Vaccination Providers)

<https://www.fda.gov/media/144413/download>

Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers

<https://www.fda.gov/media/144414/download>

Montana DPHHS COVID-19 Vaccine Availability and Resources in Montana

<https://dphhs.mt.gov/covid19vaccine/>