



# Technical Bulletin



**Date:** September 28, 2021  
**Topic:** Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Recommendations  
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**To:** All Health Care Providers and Facilities; Pharmacists; Local Health Authorities

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## Background

On September 22 and 23, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met to discuss the evidence regarding waning COVID-19 vaccine immunity and to consider a booster dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for people who have completed the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine primary series.<sup>1</sup>

## Recommendations

ACIP concluded the following:

- Efforts to vaccinate all eligible persons with a primary series of a Pfizer, Moderna, or Janssen COVID-19 vaccine are crucial to controlling this pandemic and must continue.
- These booster recommendations are **only** for those persons vaccinated with a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine primary series.
- The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine series is protective at a minimum of two weeks after receiving two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at least three weeks apart.
- Booster doses **may not** be administered to persons who had a primary COVID-19 vaccination series with Moderna or Janssen vaccines or any combination of these vaccines.
- Shared clinical decision-making between provider and patient/client is not required for vaccines to be administered.

The CDC recommendations for those who **should** receive a booster dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at least six months after completion of the primary series include:

- People who are 65 years or older
- People who are 18 years or older and are residents in long-term care settings
- People who are 50-64 years with underlying medical conditions or at increased risk of social [inequities](#)

Those who **may** receive a booster dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at least six months after completion of the primary series based on self-attestation and a personal assessment of their individual benefits and risks include:

- People who are 18-49 years with underlying medical conditions
- People who are 18-64 years with increased risk of getting COVID-19 disease due to occupational or institutional exposure

<sup>1</sup> CDC Statement on ACIP Booster Recommendations, September 24, 2021:  
<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/p0924-booster-recommendations-.html>

### Underlying Medical Conditions/Comorbidities:

- Cancer
- Cerebrovascular disease including Stroke (CVA)
- Chronic kidney disease (CKD)
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), Asthma
- Other lung diseases including interstitial lung disease, pulmonary fibrosis, pulmonary hypertension
- Cystic Fibrosis (CF)
- Diabetes mellitus, type 1 and type 2
- Heart conditions (heart failure, coronary artery disease (CAD), or cardiomyopathies), Hypertension
- Overweight (BMI>25kg/m<sup>2</sup> ,30 kg/m<sup>2</sup>), Severe Obesity (BMI >30kg/m<sup>2</sup>- <40kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
- Morbid Obesity =to or >40kg/m<sup>2</sup>
- Pregnancy and recent pregnancy
- Down syndrome
- HIV (human immunodeficiency virus)
- Neurologic conditions, including dementia
- Blood Disorders such as Sickle cell disease (SCD) and Thalassemia
- Solid organ or blood stem cell transplantation
- Substance use disorders- e.g., alcohol, opioid, cocaine, etc.
- Immune deficiencies
- Use of corticosteroids or other immunosuppressive medications
- Smoking, current and former
- Liver disease, including Cirrhosis, Hepatitis, and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease

More data on the effectiveness and safety of Moderna and Janssen booster vaccines is expected soon. Once those data are available, CDC will ensure the public is informed with a timely plan regarding Moderna and J&J/Janssen booster doses.

Providers administering booster doses of Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine should check the patient's CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Card and/or search for the patient's record in [Nevada WebIZ](#) to ensure the patient has an official record of successfully completing the initial two-dose series with the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

Providers are also encouraged to stock and administer seasonal flu vaccines, which can be safely coadministered with any COVID-19 vaccine primary series dose as well as the Pfizer-BioNTech booster dose.

#### Questions:

For updated guidance, please review the DPBH Technical Bulletin [website](#) and Nevada's health response [website](#) regularly. Email [dpbhcovid19vax@health.nv.gov](mailto:dpbhcovid19vax@health.nv.gov) with questions.



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