



September 24, 2021

To All Enrolled COVID-19 Vaccine Providers,

Eligible Ohioans can receive booster doses of the Pfizer/Comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine as soon as practical, following final action by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This preliminary update will be amended as soon as possible with formal guidance for providers.

Yesterday, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended certain populations receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 Vaccine at least six months after the completion of their Pfizer vaccine primary series. In addition, the [CDC Director recommended a booster dose](#) for those in high risk occupational and institutional settings.

Earlier this week, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) amended the [emergency use authorization \(EUA\) for the Pfizer COVID-19 Vaccine](#) to allow for use of a single booster dose, to be administered six months or longer after completion of the primary series. In conjunction with the CDC, those eligible are those at highest risk for severe COVID-19, listed below:

- People 65 years and older and residents in long-term care settings should receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series.
- People ages 50 to 64 with [certain underlying medical conditions](#) should receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series.
- People ages 18 to 49 who are at high risk for severe COVID-19 due to [certain underlying medical conditions](#) may receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks.
- People ages 18-64 who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting may receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks.

People in the recommended groups based on risk who received the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccine may need a booster shot in the future, and more data on the effectiveness and safety of these booster shots are expected in the coming weeks. The FDA and CDC will review that data and make recommendations accordingly.

At this time, the Ohio Department of Health is awaiting final clinical recommendations from the CDC, including the release of a Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), before

releasing more detailed guidance.

Eligible booster recipients will be asked to attest they have one of the qualifying conditions, but specific proof will not be required. ODH is advising that it may take eligible Ohioans 2-3 weeks to get their booster dose, and is emphasizing that there will be many opportunities to be vaccinated in their local community, whether they walk in to get their third dose or make an appointment with a nearby provider.

Eligible Ohioans will be able to visit the following types of providers to be vaccinated:

- **Long-term care facility or congregate living residents and staff** – Facilities will administer vaccines to residents and staff, specifically, nursing homes and assisted living facilities will utilize Ohio’s COVID-19 Vaccine Maintenance Program, and state departments and state-owned veterans homes will vaccinate eligible staff and residents.
- **Healthcare workers** – Healthcare workers should first check with their employer, as hospitals and health systems will offer boosters to eligible healthcare workers.
- **Other eligible Ohioans not listed above** - Eligible Ohioans can find a provider and schedule an appointment online at gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov or by phone at 1-833-427-5634, once guidance is finalized.
 - More than 1,500 retail and independent pharmacies will offer either walk-in or scheduled appointments.
 - Local health departments in some of our largest cities will offer special community vaccination sites, and health departments in virtually every county are prepared to offer booster doses, including to homebound individuals.
 - Community health centers and participating primary care providers will also offer booster doses.

More detailed guidance for Ohio vaccine providers will be posted as available on the COVID-19 Vaccine Providers resources page at <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/covid-19-vaccine-provider/covid-19-vaccine-provider>. We will also share that guidance with providers by email.

Vaccine providers with questions may call the ODH Provider Call Center at 1-844-9ODHVAX (1-844-963-4829) between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. Mondays through Fridays or email COVIDVACCINE@odh.ohio.gov.

Sincerely,
Ohio COVID-19 Vaccine Provider Relations Team