

## Recommendations Regarding Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Dose

<b>DATE:</b>	10/4/2021
<b>TO:</b>	Health Alert Network
<b>FROM:</b>	Alison V. Beam, JD, Acting Secretary of Health
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Recommendations regarding Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Dose
<b>DISTRIBUTION:</b>	Statewide
<b>LOCATION:</b>	n/a
<b>STREET ADDRESS:</b>	n/a
<b>COUNTY:</b>	n/a
<b>MUNICIPALITY:</b>	n/a
<b>ZIP CODE:</b>	n/a

This transmission is a “Health Advisory,” and provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**HOSPITALS:** PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, PEDIATRIC, NURSING AND LABORATORY STAFF IN YOUR HOSPITAL; **EMS COUNCILS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; **FQHCs:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE **LOCAL HEALTH JURISDICTIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE AS APPROPRIATE; **PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:** PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO YOUR MEMBERSHIP; **LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES:** PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL MEDICAL, INFECTION CONTROL, AND NURSING STAFF IN YOUR FACILITY

### **SUMMARY**

- CDC [Guidance](#) released on September 24, 2021 recommends that patients who received the full course of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine 6 months ago or longer may be eligible for a booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.
- The booster dose **should** be provided to the following populations:
  - People aged 65 and over
  - Residents of long-term care facilities who are 18 years and older
  - People aged 50-65 years of age with [underlying medical conditions](#)
- The booster dose **may** be provided to the following populations:
  - People aged 18-49 years with [underlying medical conditions](#)
  - People aged 18-64 at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission due to [occupational or institutional setting](#).
- The dose for the booster is the same as the dose for the original series
- Currently, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is the only COVID-19 vaccine with a recommended booster dose.
- Recommendations regarding providing an additional dose to moderately to severely immunocompromised people can be found in [PA HAN 587](#).
- If you have any questions, please call PA DOH at 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258) or your local health department.

## **Background**

On September 24, 2021 the CDC reviewed the current data about the continuing effectiveness of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine and [recommended](#) a booster dose of the Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for certain populations.

## **Recommendations**

- The booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine **should** be given to the following populations:
  - People aged 65 and over
  - Residents of long-term care facilities who are 18 years of age and older
  - People aged 50-65 years of age with the following [underlying medical conditions](#):
    - Cancer, chronic kidney disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), diabetes mellitus (type 1 and 2), heart conditions, obesity, pregnancy, and recent pregnancy
- A booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine **may** be given to the following populations:
  - People aged 18-49 with [underlying medical conditions](#) that puts them at risk
  - People aged 18-64 at increased risk to COVID-19 exposure and transmission due to occupational or institutional setting
    - [Examples include](#): Healthcare workers, teachers, food and agricultural workers, manufacturing workers, corrections workers, US Postal Service workers, public transit workers, and grocery store workers
- The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine booster dose should be given 6 months or later after completion of the primary series
- The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine booster dose is the same as the primary series dose: 0.3ml via intramuscular injection
- The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine booster dose may be given in conjunction with other vaccines without regard to timing including on the same day
- [Contraindications](#) for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine booster dose are as follows:
  - Severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) after a previous dose or to a component of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine
  - Immediate allergic reaction of any severity to a previous dose or known allergy to a component of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine
- Myocarditis after a dose of an mRNA vaccine is not an absolute contraindication; however, the booster dose should be deferred until myocarditis has completely resolved
- The Pfizer-BioNTech COVID -19 vaccine booster dose is **not** authorized for anyone under the age of 18 regardless of medical condition or occupation
- Anyone who has completed their primary series of COVID-19 vaccination is considered fully vaccinated, regardless of whether they have received the booster dose
- There have been no recommendations regarding a booster dose for the Moderna or Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccines. People who received those vaccines as their primary series are not eligible for a booster dose with the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine at this time.
- Recommendations regarding providing additional doses to moderately to severely immunocompromised people can be found in [PA HAN 587](#).

If you have any questions, please call PA DOH at 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258) or your local health department

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.

This information is current as of October 4, 2021 but may be modified in the future.