COVID-19 Vaccine Program
Guidance for Vaccine Providers on Administering Booster Doses

COVID-19 vaccines offer the best protection against serious illness and death from COVID-19. The vaccines are safe and effective at reducing risk for serious illness and death from COVID-19. But that protection weakens over time. Booster doses can help restore and maintain that protection from severe COVID-19 outcomes.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) **recommend a single COVID-19 booster dose for children and adults age 5 years and older**. The timing of booster doses varies by vaccine product (see product-specific guidance below). *COVID-19 vaccine and booster doses are not authorized for anyone younger than 5 years of age at this time.*

A second booster for high-risk individuals

People who are at increased risk for serious illness from COVID-19 can choose to add another layer of protection with a second booster. The FDA and CDC have authorized a **second booster dose for those people who are at the highest risk for severe illness or death from COVID-19**.

- People age 50 years and older who received an initial mRNA booster dose (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) **at least four months ago should receive a second booster dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine**. *A second booster dose may be most beneficial for people who are age 65 and older, or who are age 50-64 with certain underlying medical conditions.*

- People age 12 years and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised who received an initial mRNA booster dose (Pfizer or Moderna) **at least four months ago should receive a second booster dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine** (Pfizer, age 12+; Moderna, age 18+). *This means individuals age 12 years and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised may receive as many as five doses – the recommended three-dose primary series for people who are immunocompromised, plus two booster doses.*

- In addition, adults who received **a booster dose of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine at least 4 months ago MAY RECEIVE a second booster dose using an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer or Moderna)**.

People who are eligible to receive a second booster dose are encouraged to talk to their healthcare providers to assess individual risks and the benefits of another dose in strengthening ongoing protection.

Eligibility, dosage, and timing of booster shots vary by COVID-19 vaccine product, and other factors including age and medical condition. *Please read eligibility information by product in the guidance below.*

Vaccine providers should continue to prioritize efforts to vaccinate unvaccinated individuals to protect against severe illness and death from COVID-19.

BOOSTER DOSE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS BY PRODUCT

IF YOU RECEIVED PFIZER-BIONTECH FOR THE PRIMARY SERIES:

Booster dose eligibility: A single booster dose is recommended for Pfizer vaccine recipients age 5 years and older at least five months after the last dose.

Second booster dose eligibility: A second booster dose may be given to people at the highest risk for severe illness or death from COVID-19 at least four months after the first booster. People in the following higher-risk categories may choose to receive a second booster dose to strengthen protection, based on their individual benefits and risks:

- People age 50 years and older who received an initial mRNA booster dose (Pfizer or Moderna) at least four months ago **should receive** a second booster dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. *A second booster dose may be most beneficial for people who are age 65 and older, or who are age 50-64 with certain underlying medical conditions.*
- People age 12 years and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised who received an initial mRNA booster dose (Pfizer or Moderna) at least four months ago **should receive** a second booster dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer, age 12+ years; Moderna, age 18+ years). *This means individuals age 12 years and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised may receive as many as five doses – the recommended three-dose primary series for people who are immunocompromised, plus two booster doses.*

More info: Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers (must dilute purple cap formulation for 12+); Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Face Sheet for Healthcare Providers (no dilution gray cap formulation for 12+); Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers (must dilute orange cap formulation for ages 5-11)

IF YOU RECEIVED MODERNA FOR THE PRIMARY SERIES:

Booster dose eligibility: A booster dose is recommended for Moderna vaccine recipients age 18 years and older at least five months after the last dose.

Second booster dose eligibility: A second booster dose may be given to people at the highest risk for severe illness or death from COVID-19 at least four months after the first booster. People in the following higher-risk categories may choose to receive a second booster dose to strengthen protection, based on their individual benefits and risks:

- People age 50 years and older who received an initial mRNA booster dose (Pfizer or Moderna) at least four months ago **should receive** a second booster dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. A second booster dose may be most beneficial for people who are age 65 and older, or who are age 50-64 with certain underlying medical conditions.
- People age 12 and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised who received an initial mRNA booster dose (Pfizer or Moderna) at least four months ago **should receive** a second booster dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Pfizer, age 12+; Moderna, age 18+). *This means individuals age 12 years and older who are moderately to severely immunocompromised may receive as many as five doses – the recommended three-dose primary series for people who are immunocompromised, plus two booster doses.*

More info: Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers (primary series and booster dose presentation); Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers (booster only presentation)

IF YOU RECEIVED JOHNSON & JOHNSON FOR THE PRIMARY SERIES:

Booster dose eligibility: A booster dose is recommended for Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine recipients age 18 years and older at least two months after the initial dose. Most patients should receive an mRNA vaccine for booster dose(s).

Second booster dose eligibility: Based on a recently published CDC report, adults who received a primary vaccine and booster dose of the Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine at least 4 months ago may consider a second booster dose using an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.

Johnson & Johnson (Janssen) vaccine authorized uses: The FDA has limited the authorized use of the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine to individuals 18 years old and older for whom other authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccines are not accessible or clinically appropriate, and to individuals 18 years old and older who choose to receive the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine because they would otherwise not receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

More info: Johnson & Johnson/Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet for Healthcare Providers

PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY AND CONSENT

IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Providers should ask to see identification that proves name, age, and identity.
    - Ask for identification to verify only the patient's identity, name, and age. Patients do not need to show proof of citizenship or residency status. Identification should still be accepted if it is expired or from another state or country.
    - Acceptable forms of identification are listed below:
        - Driver's license or any photo ID, regardless of expiration date or place of origin.
        - Active/retired military ID.
        - Physician statement (including shot records).
        - Census records.
        - Adoption records.
        - Naturalization certificate.
        - Birth certificate: Birth record, either original or certified copy.
        - Consulate ID or matricula consular.
        - Passport or a passport card.
        - Certificate of citizenship.
        - Permanent resident card.
        - Application for replacement naturalization/citizenship document.
        - Department of State forms.
            - Military service records (DD-214)
            - Certification of Birth Abroad of a Citizen of the United States (FS-545)
            - Certification of Report of Birth Abroad of a United States Citizen (DS-1350)
            - Consular Report of Birth Abroad of a Citizen of the United States of America (FS-240)
            - Employment Authorization Document (I-766/EAD)
            - Transportation letter (I-797F)

PARENTAL CONSENT

Children younger than age 18 who are not emancipated must have parental or legal guardian consent for any vaccine. A parent or legal guardian generally should accompany the minor to receive the vaccine, unless the administration of the vaccine occurs in a physician's office, school-based or school-associated clinic setting or similar setting.

VACCINE CARDS

Eligible Ohioans are encouraged to bring their COVID-19 vaccine card to their booster appointment. If they cannot find their vaccine card, they should first contact their original vaccine provider to see if their records can be located. If the original vaccine provider is unable to assist, they should contact their local health department. The final available option is to review this

information on how to mail a request for your vaccination records to the Ohio Department of Health. Replacement vaccine cards are not available from the Ohio Department of Health. If a vaccine recipient does not have their original vaccine card, that should not be a barrier to prevent them from being vaccinated.

MIX-AND-MATCH BOOSTER DOSES

Fully vaccinated individuals ages 18 years and older who have completed the primary vaccination series can receive a booster dose of any authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine, regardless of the vaccine used for initial vaccination. **This mix-and-match approach applies only to booster doses for adults. People ages 5-17 years may only receive a Pfizer vaccine booster.**

People may consider the benefits and risks of each product and discuss with their healthcare provider which product is most appropriate for them based on their age, gender, medical history, reactions after past vaccinations, or overall allergy history.

NOTE: In most situations, mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) should be given as the primary series or booster(s). The FDA has limited the authorized use of the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine to individuals 18 years old and older who had a severe reaction after an mRNA vaccine dose or who have a severe allergy to an ingredient of an mRNA vaccine, and to individuals 18 years old and older who choose to receive the Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine because they would otherwise not receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

It's important to note, the half-dose (50mcg) Moderna booster dose should be given to all booster recipients, even if the primary series was different.

Additional recommendations around mix-and-match booster doses, including data and studies around homologous (same vaccine as primary series) or heterologous (different vaccine from primary series) boosters, are included in the CDC's Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of the COVID-19 Vaccines.

BOOSTER DOSE AVAILABILITY

Vaccines are widely available at many locations across the state, including local health departments, pediatricians, family physicians, community health centers, adult and children's hospitals, and pharmacies. Ohioans are encouraged to call their provider for more information or visit **gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov** or call 1-833-4-ASK-ODH (1-833-427-5634) to locate a provider or make an appointment. Many providers offer walk-in appointments.

VACCINE MANAGEMENT SOLUTION (VMS): GETTHESHOT.CORONAVIRUS.OHIO.GOV

Eligible Ohioans will be able to determine their eligibility for booster doses and, if determined to be eligible, schedule an appointment at gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov. Providers may continue to offer walk-in availability as appropriate.

For those providers who are scheduling appointments and whose schedulers can accommodate, please open schedulers at least three weeks out for future appointments if possible.

Providers are encouraged to offer all COVID-19 vaccine products, and should ensure that VMS displays all vaccine products available. Providers are also encouraged to share available vaccine products on their websites and social media pages so people can find an appointment for their preferred product.

View updated training materials on the Ohio Department of Health VMS training page.

VACCINE LOCATIONS

Eligible Ohioans can find a provider and schedule an appointment online at gettheshot.coronavirus.ohio.gov or by calling 1-833-427-5634.

- Most 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.

- Participating long-term care facilities will offer doses of the Pfizer vaccine to residents through Ohio's COVID-19 Vaccine Maintenance Program, and state agencies and state-owned veterans homes will vaccinate eligible staff and residents.
- Affordable senior housing communities will work with local partners to host special vaccination opportunities for booster doses.
- Ohio has ample supply of vaccine for primary series and boosters.

BOOSTER DOSE ORDERS/SHIPPING

DIRECT ORDERING

Vaccine providers should factor booster dose supply into current ordering cadences. All Ohio COVID-19 vaccine providers are responsible for placing vaccine orders through the ImpactSIIS Vaccine Ordering Management System (VOMS). VOMS is open for providers to place orders 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Providers can order COVID-19 vaccine at their convenience. ODH is committed to getting COVID-19 vaccines to our providers as quickly as possible.

To ensure adequate inventory levels, providers should anticipate a window of seven days from the date your order is entered into VOMS to the date the vaccine is delivered to your facility. Orders for products that are shipped directly from the manufacturer will be approved and processed Monday through Friday.

MINIMUM ORDER/SHIPPING QUANTITIES

Pfizer (adult/adolescent formulation)

- Minimum order quantity for direct shipment from the manufacturer is 300 doses, available in increments of 300 doses.
- The ODH Receipt, Store, and Stage (RSS) warehouse will break down Pfizer shipments into smaller sizes.
    - Minimum order quantity is 60 doses, available in increments of 60.

Moderna

- Moderna booster doses (half dose) are currently drawn from the same vials as the primary series. Vaccine providers need to draw the appropriate booster dosage from existing inventories (vials include the equivalent of 11 full doses, 20 booster doses or a combination of regular/booster doses with a maximum of 20 punctures).
- Note, Moderna will soon have a booster only presentation.
- Minimum order quantity for direct shipment from the CDC/McKesson Distribution Center is 100 doses.

Johnson & Johnson

- Minimum order quantity for direct shipment from the CDC/McKesson Distribution Center is 100 doses.

COVID-19 orders processed through the ODH RSS Warehouse will be delivered Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. The Friday delivery option is only available to hospitals and pharmacies. Federal holidays that occur on weekdays may interrupt the delivery schedule.

Ancillary kits – containing needles, syringes, alcohol pads, vaccination cards and surgical masks/face shields for vaccinators – are shipped separately. Providers may opt out of ancillary supplies for ADULT ORDERS ONLY by the entering "No Ancillary Kits" in the Comments section of their order.

VACCINE ADMINISTRATION

- **Booster dosage:** All booster doses are the same formulation as the primary series; however, the amount varies from the primary series in the case of the Moderna vaccine.
    - A Pfizer booster dose is the same dosage given for the primary series for all vaccine presentations (adults and pediatric).
    - A Moderna booster dose is NOT the same dosage given for the primary series (100 mcg). The booster dose and second booster dose is a half dose (50 mcg).
    - The volume of a booster dose of Moderna depends on the presentation:

        - Multiple-dose vial of Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine with a dark blue cap and a label with a purple border: Booster Dose is 0.5 mL
        - Multiple-dose vial of Moderna (Spikevax) COVID-19 Vaccine with a red cap and a label with a light blue border: Booster Dose is 0.25 mL
    - The half-dose Moderna booster dose (50mcg) should be given to all booster recipients, even if the primary series was different.
    - Primary series doses (100mcg) or booster doses (50mcg) may be extracted from a vial, preferentially using low dead-volume syringes and/or needles.
        - When extracting only primary series doses, depending on the syringes and needles used, a maximum of 11 doses (range: 10-11 doses) may be extracted from the vial containing 5.5 mL.
        - **When extracting only booster doses or a combination of primary series and booster doses, the maximum number of doses that may be extracted from the vial presentation should not exceed 20 doses. Do not puncture the vial stopper more than 20 times.**
        - If the amount of vaccine remaining in the vial cannot provide a full or half dose, discard the vial and contents. Do not pool excess vaccine from multiple vials.
    - The Johnson & Johnson booster dose is the same dosage given for the first dose.

- **No out-of-pocket costs:** There is no out-of-pocket cost for a COVID-19 vaccine. Providers may ask for insurance, Medicare, or Medicaid information and can charge an administration fee to insurance. Patients do not have to pay a fee directly.
- **Coadministration:** Booster doses may be given with other vaccines without regard to timing. This includes simultaneous administration of COVID-19 and other vaccines on the same day. Best practices for administering more than one vaccine, including COVID-19 vaccines and influenza vaccines, include:
    - When preparing more than one vaccine, label each with the name and dosage (amount) of vaccine, lot number, the initials of the preparer, and the exact beyond-use time, if applicable.
    - Always inject vaccines into different injection sites.
    - Separate injection sites by 1 inch or more, if possible, so that any local reactions can be differentiated. Each muscle (deltoid, vastus lateralis) has multiple injection sites.
    - If administered at the same time, COVID-19 vaccines and vaccines that might be more likely to cause a local injection site reaction (for example, high-dose and adjuvanted inactivated influenza vaccines) should be administered in different arms (or legs), if possible.

- Contraindications and precautions for a booster dose are the same as for the primary series.
- For individuals who had myocarditis and myopericarditis, it is recommended to defer a subsequent dose until myocarditis and myopericarditis has completely resolved.

View the CDC's Interim Clinical Considerations for use of COVID-19 vaccines for more detailed guidance for vaccine providers.

DATA REPORTING

The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) is committed to releasing data to inform the public in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis while also protecting the privacy rights of Ohioans. ODH has developed several online data dashboards reflecting information from multiple sources, including vaccination data provided by all enrolled providers.

VACCINE ADMINISTRATION DATA

The COVID-19 Vaccination Dashboard at coronavirus.ohio.gov displays the most recent data reported to the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) regarding the number of individuals that have started and completed the COVID-19 vaccination series by various demographics and county of residence.

To ensure timely data reporting and sharing, all COVID-19 vaccine providers must report all vaccinations within 24 hours through the Ohio Impact Statewide Immunization Information System (ImpactSIIS). **This includes the reporting of booster doses.**

VACCINE ADMINISTRATION ERRORS AND ADVERSE EVENTS

As part of ongoing vaccine safety monitoring efforts, vaccine providers are required to report any adverse events, including vaccine administration errors, to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System. VAERS is the nation's early warning system that monitors the safety of vaccines after they are authorized or licensed for use by the FDA. VAERS is part of the larger vaccine safety system in the United States that helps make sure vaccines are safe. The system is co-managed by the CDC and FDA. VAERS accepts and analyzes reports of possible health problems — also called "adverse events" — after vaccination. If VAERS detects a pattern of adverse events following vaccination, other vaccine safety monitoring systems conduct follow-up studies. Visit VAERS for a complete listing of requirements and step-by-step instructions on how to submit a report.

MESSAGING

Healthcare providers are asked to share facts about the safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, remind patients eligible for booster doses to stay up to date on their vaccinations, and answer any patient questions about the vaccines.

COMMUNICATIONS TOOLKIT

As part of Ohio's ongoing work to encourage Ohioans to get their COVID-19 booster shot, the Ohio Department of Health has developed a communications toolkit to provide tools that may be used to help promote key messages.

The toolkit includes resources such as graphics, printable flyers, website and newsletter language, patient reminders, and social media posts:

- COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters Communications Toolkit for Vaccine Providers
- COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters Communications Toolkit for Local Health Departments
- COVID-19 Vaccine Boosters Communications Toolkit for Community Partners

Updated May 20, 2022.

For additional information, visit coronavirus.ohio.gov.

The Ohio Department of Health COVID-19 Provider website is a hub for a variety of resources for vaccine providers. Vaccine providers with questions may call the ODH Provider Call Center at 1-844-9ODHVAX (1-844-963-4829) between 8 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays or email COVIDVACCINE@odh.ohio.gov.