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NEW MEXICO HEALTH ALERT NETWORK (HAN) ALERT

CDC and FDA Authorize a Second Booster Dose for Certain Populations

March 30, 2022

Background

On March 29, 2022, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized a second booster dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine for people 50 and older and for those who are immune compromised to be administered at least 4 months from the first booster dose. The Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC) endorsed the recommendation the same day.

Also on March 29, FDA authorized a “booster only” formulation of Moderna vaccine (dark blue cap/purple border on label). This booster dose only presentation of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine is not authorized to provide a primary series dose and is referred to as “Moderna 5.”

Recommendations for Clinicians:

- Adults **50 years and older** may receive a second booster dose of mRNA vaccine at least 4 months after their first booster dose. The second booster dose may follow any authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine.
- Individuals **12 years and older** who are immune compromised may receive a second booster dose of an mRNA vaccine at least 4 months after their first booster dose (for a total of 5 doses). The second booster dose should be age appropriate and may follow any authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine. Pfizer vaccine is approved for boosters in people 12 years and older. Moderna vaccine is approved for boosters in people 18 years and older.
- Individuals **18 years and older** who received the Janssen vaccine and booster may receive a second booster dose of an mRNA vaccine at least 4 months after their first booster dose (for a total of 3 doses)¹.
- The FDA has authorized a “booster only” formulation of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine (dark blue cap/purple label border). The booster dose using this formulation is 0.5ml (50 µg). Moderna 5 is expected to be available the week of April 11. The usual Moderna booster dose (red cap/light blue label border) remains 0.25ml (50 µg), regardless of the primary series or booster that it follows.
- The Pfizer booster dose remains 0.3ml (30 µg) regardless of the primary series or booster that it follows.

¹ [Effectiveness of Homologous and Heterologous COVID-19 Booster Doses Following 1 Ad.26.COV2.S \(Janssen \[Johnson & Johnson\]\) Vaccine Dose Against COVID-19–Associated Emergency Department and Urgent Care Encounters and Hospitalizations Among Adults — VISION Network, 10 States, December 2021–March 2022 | MMWR \(cdc.gov\)](#)

Safety Considerations²:

The FDA noted that no new safety concerns were noted in a summary of safety surveillance data from the Ministry of Health of Israel on the administration of approximately 700,000 fourth (second booster) doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine given at least 4 months after the third dose in adults 18 years of age and older (approximately 600,000 of whom were 60 years of age or older).

Additional Considerations:

- 1) A recent study preprint from Israel showed a 78% reduction in deaths in people ages 60 - 100 vaccinated with a second booster when compared to those vaccinated with only 3 doses³.
- 2) CDC stresses that people 65 and older and those 50 and older with underlying medical conditions are at increased risk for severe disease from COVID-19 and are the most likely to benefit from receiving an additional booster dose at this time.
- 3) Current vaccine cards have room to document 4 doses of vaccine. CDC does not expect to issue new cards. The back of the vaccine card or an additional card can be used to document additional doses. Patients can download an electronic copy of their COVID Vaccine record at: [Vaxviewnm.org \(state.nm.us\)](https://vaxviewnm.org/state.nm.us).
- 4) Immune compromising conditions recommended for a 3-dose primary series are listed here: [Clinical Guidance for COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC](#)
- 5) People who have had COVID-19 and recovered should still get all recommended doses of COVID-19 vaccine. Patients should complete their isolation period before getting vaccinated, but there is no other waiting period required after the illness.

Access to Vaccine Boosters Doses in New Mexico

- New Mexico COVID-19 vaccine providers can immediately implement the above recommendations.
- The statewide registration app has implemented the above recommendation for scheduling. People can schedule at: [Get Vaccinated New Mexico | NMDOH \(vaccinenm.org\)](#)
- New Mexicans can also schedule boosters with their medical and pharmacy providers.
- Vaccine appointments can also be found on the CDC Vaccine Finder website: [Vaccines.gov - Find COVID-19 vaccine locations near you](#).
- All providers are encouraged to provide office-based COVID-19 vaccines.

Additional Resources:

²[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: FDA Authorizes Second Booster Dose of Two COVID-19 Vaccines for Older and Immunocompromised Individuals | FDA](#)

³[Second Booster Vaccine and Covid-19 Mortality in Adults 60 to 100 Years Old | Research Square](#)

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND RESPONSE

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1. Pfizer EUA: [Healthcare Providers for 12 years of age and older, gray cap \(no dilution\) 03292022 \(fda.gov\)](#)
2. Moderna EUA: [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine HCP FS Light Blue 03292022 \(fda.gov\)](#)
3. Moderna EUA (booster only formulation): [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine HCP FS Purple 03292022 \(fda.gov\)](#)
4. Clinical recommendations from CDC will be updated here: [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)
5. For clinicians wishing to administer COVID-19 vaccine, please contact the NM DOH Immunization Team at covid.vaccines@state.nm.us or register online at TakeCareNM.com: [For Providers | NMDOH \(rtscustomer.com\)](#)

New Mexico Health Alert Network: To register for the New Mexico Health Alert Network, click the following link to go directly to the HAN registration page <https://nm.readyop.com/fs/4cjZ/10b2> Please provide all information requested to begin receiving important health alerts and advisories.