**Q+A from the COVID Vaccine Provider Meeting 9/28/21**

Current Booster Recommendation:

• CDC recommends that the following groups **SHOULD** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech’s COVID-19 Vaccine at least 6 months after completing their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series:

o people aged 65 years and older

o residents aged 18 years and older in long-term care settings

o people aged 50–64 years with underlying medical conditions

• CDC also recommends that the following groups **MAY** receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech’s COVID-19 Vaccine at least 6 months after completing their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks:

o people aged 18–49 years with underlying medical conditions

o people aged 18–64 years at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting

**QUESTIONS ABOUT WHO IS ELIGIBLE for a BOOSTER:**

Q: The Booster is only for Pfizer, right?

A: Yes. Pfizer is the only vaccine with FDA authorization for a booster. (Both Moderna and Pfizer have FDA authorization for an additional dose in immune compromised individuals).

Q: What if you are in a high risk or priority group but got Moderna or J&J?

A: No booster has been authorized yet for people who got Moderna or J&J – even for those in a high-risk group.

Q: Only Pfizer may be given right now, regardless of their priority status, correct?

A: Correct!

Q: Can teachers get a Pfizer Booster?

A: Yes. Teachers are in the “May get a booster” group.

Q: As a small hospital, we plan to vaccinate our staff without using the app. Must we wait until the 3rd week to being vaccinating?

A: There is no need to wait if you are a healthcare organization vaccinating your own employees.

Q: If an individual got Pfizer for first 2 doses, can we provide a Moderna booster?

A: No. There is no FDA authorization for Moderna boosters (only for a Moderna “additional dose” for immune compromised people).

Q: Can we give a booster if we can’t verify prior vaccination?

A: This is a judgement call. In general, CDC would like to ensure that there are no barriers to receiving booster shot, but also, providers want to be reasonably certain that they are giving the vaccine appropriately.

Q: Are there additional mandates for hospital employees in terms of booster requirements?

A: No additional mandates. People are still considered “fully vaccinated” two weeks after their second dose in a 2-shot series, such as Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as the J&J/Janssen vaccine.

Q: Can we vaccinate “MAY” if we have vaccine left at the end of the day?

A: Yes! For outreach and scheduling, the priority is the “SHOULD” group first. But people in the MAY group can still be vaccinated.

Q: Boosters are on the “honor system”? People don’t have to show proof of medical condition, age, or occupation?

A: **Per CDC,** individuals can self-attest (i.e., self-report that they are eligible) and receive a booster shot wherever vaccines are offered. This will help decrease barriers to access for these select populations receiving their booster shot. However, people are expected to bring their vaccine card to show which vaccine they got for the primary series.

**IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM QUESTIONS:**

Q: Will the VIS or EAU be different for the 3rd vaccine?

A: The Fact Sheet was updated on 9/22/21, but it is still the same document for both Comirnaty and Pfizer and for all the doses: [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine EUA Fact Sheet for Recipients and Caregivers (fda.gov)](https://www.fda.gov/media/144414/download).

Q: How should we handle missing vaccine cards?

A: People who need a vaccine card can look in Vax View and select “COVID Immunization record” or call the NMSIIS hotline 1-833-882-6454, or email at [COVID.vaccines@state.nm.us](mailto:COVID.vaccines@state.nm.us)

Q: Will the 450-dose pack of Pfizer (“1/2 pack”) be offered soon again?

A: CDC says the 450-dose pack will be available again – possibly as soon as November.

Q: Can patients enter their third dose in VSAFE?

A: CDC said in meetings last week that V-Safe had been set up to capture 3rd doses and send 3rd-dose reminders to participants.

Q: Should hospitals order vaccine for boosters as they previously did?

A: Yes. Hospitals and all COVID19 Vaccine providers will continue ordering vaccine through NMSIIS.

Q: Will the state be developing a QR code for vaccine administration?

A: The Immunization Team is working with the NMSIIS Vendor to implement QR codes to include with the immunization records – hoping it will be ready by Nov/Dec.

Q: For hospitals that have vaccines that are nearing expiration, is there any information that the expiration dates will be extended?

A: Expiration dates were recently extended for Pfizer. Information changes frequently, so it is best to check with manufacturer as vaccines approach their expiry date. Checking expiration dates:

For Pfizer: [Comirnaty (COVID-19 Vaccine, mRNA) Fact Sheet For Healthcare Providers Administering Vaccine (Vaccination Providers) (Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine) | Pfizer Medical Information - US](https://www.pfizermedicalinformation.com/en-us/pfizer-biontech-covid-19-vaccine/fda-label)

For Moderna: [Vial Expiration Date Lookup | Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine (EUA) (modernatx.com)](https://www.modernatx.com/covid19vaccine-eua/providers/vial-lookup)

For J&J: [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine Expiry Checker (vaxcheck.jnj)](https://vaxcheck.jnj/)

Q: VaxViewNM does not show the lot numbers of the COVID vaccine doses. Folks want those lot #s for vaccine cards. Is there a public option to get that extra info?

A: There are two options in VaxViewNM – people can select their entire IZ record and that does not have lot #s. They can also choose their COVID Immunization record which is like a printout of their COVID vaccination card which does have lot #s.

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Q: No news on Moderna or Janssen boosters?

A: No news.

**FLU and COVID VACCINE:**

Q: Can COVID19 Vaccine be given with other vaccines? Any waiting period at all?

A: Any Covid19 Vaccine can be given with any other vaccine - no waiting period required. Here is the link to CDC info on co-administration of covid with other vaccines: [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fvaccines%2Fcovid-19%2Finfo-by-product%2Fclinical-considerations.html#Coadministration)

Q: I have some providers hesitant to provide the flu and covid shots together. Do you have any info?

A: Info on co-administration can be found at the above link. This link is more specific to covid and flu: [Webinar September 9, 2021 - 2021-2022 Influenza Vaccination Recommendations and Guidance on Coadministration with COVID-19 Vaccines (cdc.gov)](https://emergency.cdc.gov/coca/calls/2021/callinfo_090921.asp)

**REGISTRATION APP Specific questions:**

Q: App allowing Moderna primary series to schedule booster

A: This should not be the case. RTS will investigate further.

Q: Who does the App allow to schedule?

A: All SHOULDS can schedule, and all MAYS can schedule but the first available appointment they will see is Oct 11.

Q: The MAYS can schedule at some sites and not at others.

A: That should not be the case. RTS will investigate further.

Q: Should we be using the "fill my event" option?

A: Yes - the fill my event option is available to fill booster events (as of 9/30/21)

Q: Will there be an option to document the Flu Vaccine and the Covid vaccines in the app?

A: Yes. This feature should be available starting 10/8/21.

**RESOURCE LINKS:**

Link to the meeting recording: YOUTUBE Link  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vzR4yGF3Mo](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3D0vzR4yGF3Mo&data=04%7C01%7CMirandaH.Durham%40state.nm.us%7C36fb4857adc84ba17ede08d9835ef967%7C04aa6bf4d436426fbfa404b7a70e60ff%7C0%7C0%7C637685266206558069%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=TfsaNdXh7q37M7yUJ4peMtXn1C9RPw20iQGNq8DT17c%3D&reserved=0)

Link to the map: <https://vaccinenm.org/booster-planning.html>

Link for help with/questions about becoming a COVID19 Vaccine provider: <https://takecarenm.org/take-care-nm/for-providers/>

Link to sign up as a provider in the RTS app: <https://cvprovider.nmhealth.org/request-access.html>

**Understanding the two different recommendations for 3rd Doses of mRNA COVID19 Vaccine:**

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Additional Dose** | **Booster Dose** |
| Approved Vaccines | Moderna and Pfizer | Pfizer only |
| Purpose | Bolster immunity for people who didn’t get the full benefit of the initial vaccine series | Bolster waning immunity in higher risk people |
| Approved Population | * Immune compromised individuals | SHOULD receive:   * People 65 years and older * Residents of LTCF * People 50 – 64 with underlying medical conditions   MAY receive:   * People 18 – 49 with underlying medical conditions * People 18 - 64 in high risk occupational and institutional settings |
| Timing | Administer ***at least 28 days*** after completion of the primary series | Administer ***at least 6 months*** after completion of the primary series |
| Additional Info Links | [COVID-19 Vaccines for Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised People | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html)  [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/clinical-considerations/covid-19-vaccines-us.html#considerations-additional-dose) | [People with Certain Medical Conditions | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/people-with-medical-conditions.html)  [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html) |
| **TOP PRIORITY remains primary vaccine series with any FDA authorized COVID19 Vaccine** | | |