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## Maine Health Alert Network (HAN) System

# PUBLIC HEALTH ADVISORY

**To:** Health Care Providers  
**From:** Nirav D. Shah, Director, Maine CDC  
**Subject:** **Booster Doses of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine**  
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### Booster Doses of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine

This week, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration authorized, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended, administration of a booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine for certain individuals. Specifically, the U.S. CDC recommends:

- a. 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;
- b. People ages 50–64 years with [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;
- c. People ages 18–49 years with [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; and
- d. People ages 18-64 years 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.

Many individuals who are now eligible to receive a booster shot received their initial vaccine early in the vaccination program and will benefit from additional protection. With the Delta variant's predominance in Maine and continued high numbers of daily cases of COVID-19 cases, a booster shot will provide protection against severe disease in those populations who are at high risk for exposure to

COVID-19 or complications from severe disease. As [previously recommended](#), moderately to severely immunocompromised individuals who are eligible for an additional dose of an mRNA vaccine should get that dose at least 28 days after the completion of their primary series.

The U.S. FDA and U.S. CDC continue to monitor the safety and efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines for individuals who received their primary series with either Moderna or Johnson & Johnson's products. The U.S. FDA has not yet authorized booster doses for those individuals. The federal agencies will continue to evaluate those data as they become available and make additional recommendations for populations who received either the Moderna or J&J vaccine.

### **Recommendations**

Providers in Maine should administer a booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to individuals who fall into one of the categories above.

The [U.S. FDA](#) notes certain populations such as “health care workers, teachers, and day care staff, grocery workers and those in homeless shelters or prisons, among others,” who may be eligible to receive a booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine at least six months following receipt of the final dose in their primary series of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Similarly, the U.S. CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices noted additional settings in which there may be an increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission, such as those involving a caregiver of a frail or immunocompromised person, or those who live in a congregate setting (*e.g.*, homeless shelter or correctional facility). Maine providers should use their clinical judgment as to whether other occupational or institutional settings present an increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission for individuals aged 18-64.

Maine has additional doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine available for order through the Maine Immunization Program.

### **For more information:**

- Maine CDC's COVID-19 vaccines webpage: <https://www.maine.gov/covid19/vaccines>
- U.S. CDC's COVID-19 Booster Shot webpage: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html>