As always please feel free to reach out to the MSDH Office of Epidemiology at 601-576-7725 or the MSDH Office of Immunizations at 601-576-7751 with questions.

**MSDH “Booster” Dose Recommendations: Who is eligible?**

The following people are recommended to receive a Pfizer vaccine booster dose:

- Have been fully vaccinated with two shots of Pfizer, and
- Are at least six months after their last shot of Pfizer

AND, are in one of the following categories:

- People 65 years and older, OR
- Residents in long-term care facilities (LTCF), OR
- People aged 18 and older with underlying medical conditions (see below), OR
- Individuals aged 18 and older who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting (see below).

**Underlying Medical Conditions to Consider for Booster Dose of Pfizer (determined by medical provider):**

- Chronic kidney disease,
- Chronic lung diseases (COPD, asthma, etc),
- Dementia or other neurological conditions
- Diabetes (type 1 or 2),
- Down syndrome,
- Heart conditions (such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies),
- Hypertension
- Liver Disease
- Overweight (defined as a body mass index (BMI) > 25 kg/m² but < 30 kg/m²), obesity (BMI ≥30 kg/m² but < 40 kg/m²), or severe obesity (BMI of ≥40 kg/m²),
- Pregnancy,
- Sickle cell disease or thalassemia,
- Smoking (current or former),
- Stroke,
• Substance abuse disorders,
• Other medical conditions determined by the medical provider.
**See CDC reference Underlying Medical Conditions for Clinicians (cdc.gov)

Occupations and Institutional Settings to Consider for Booster Dose of Pfizer
• First responders (healthcare workers, firefighters, police, people who live or work in congregate care settings)
• Education staff (teachers, support staff, daycare workers)
• Food and agriculture workers
• Manufacturing workers
• Corrections workers
• U.S. Postal Service workers
• Public transit workers
• Grocery store workers
• See CDC Reference for Occupations at increased risk at Who Is Eligible for a COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot? | CDC

MSDH Additional or “Third” Dose Recommendations: Who is Eligible?

Based on data that immunocompromised people may not respond to the initial 2 dose series, the following people are recommended to receive an additional or “third” dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine at least 28 days after the last dose (should receive dose of the same vaccine that was received initially)

• Receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
• Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
• Received a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
• Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
• Advanced or untreated HIV infection
• Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response
• Any other medical condition which, in the provider’s opinion, limits the immune response to the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine primary two-dose series.

For full Updated Guidance for an Additional Dose or Third Dose of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine for Immunocompromised Individuals, please see previous Health Alert Message dated August 16, 2021, at 15390.pdf (ms.gov)

Regards,

Paul Byers, MD
State Epidemiologist
Originating Agency: Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program: MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
Message Identifier: MSHAN-20210929-00543-ALT
Program (HAN) Type: Health Alert
Status (Type): Actual
Message Type: Alert
Reference: MSHAN-00543
Severity: Unknown
Acknowledgement: No
Sensitive: Not Sensitive
Message Expiration: Undetermined
Urgency: Undetermined
Delivery Time: 600 minutes

**Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings**

- **Originating Agency:** A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.
- **Alerting Program:** The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.
- **Message Identifier:** A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (ALT=Health Alert, ADV=Health Advisory, UPD=Health Update, MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service)).
- **Program (HAN) Type:** 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.
  - **Health Info Service:** Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.
- **Status (Type):**
  - **Actual:** Communication or alert refers to a live event
  - **Exercise:** Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
  - **Test:** Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded
- **Message Type:**
Alert: Indicates an original Alert
Update: Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

Severity:
- Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property
- Severe: Significant threat to life or property
- Moderate: Possible threat to life or property
- Minor: Minimal threat to life or property
- Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:
- Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
- Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).