



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official  
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Alert**

**MESSAGE ID:** MSHAN-20211025-00545-ALT (Health Alert)  
**RECIPIENTS:** All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, and  
Healthcare Providers – Statewide  
Monday, October 25, 2021  
**SUBJECT:** Update: Expanded Use of Booster Doses for  
COVID-19 Vaccines

Dear Colleagues,

The FDA has taken action to expand the use of booster doses of COVID-19 of vaccine to eligible individuals to include Moderna and Johnson and Johnson vaccine in certain persons and to allow for heterologous (mix and match) dosing for booster doses. The CDC has endorsed the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for booster doses of COVID-19 vaccine, which align with the updated FDA authorizations.

### Summary of Booster Eligibility

Booster dose eligibility is based on the vaccine utilized for the primary series (2 doses of Pfizer or Moderna, or 1 dose of Johnson and Johnson).

- For individuals who received a **Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine as the primary series**, the following groups are eligible for a booster shot at 6 months or more after their initial series:
  - 65 years and older, or
  - Age 18+ who live in long-term care settings, or
  - Age 18+ who have [underlying medical conditions](#)\*, or
  - Age 18+ who work or live in [high-risk settings](#)\*.

\*See also the HAN dated September 29, 2021, for description of medical conditions or high-risk settings [15989.pdf \(ms.gov\)](#)

- For individuals who received **Johnson and Johnson (Janssen) COVID-19 vaccine as the primary series**, anyone 18 years and older who received vaccination with Johnson and Johnson (Janssen) two or more months ago is eligible for a booster shot.



## Heterologous Booster Doses

The use of each of the available COVID-19 vaccines as a heterologous or “mix and match” booster dose is authorized for anyone who is eligible for a booster based on the eligibility criteria described above. Eligible individuals may receive a booster dose of any of the currently available vaccines in the US (Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson and Johnson).

- The use of the vaccine as heterologous (mix and match) is only authorized for booster doses.
- Note-the Moderna vaccine booster dose is a half-dose.

Examples of heterologous (mix and match) use of COVID-19 vaccines for booster doses:

- **Example One:** An individual who was fully vaccinated with Pfizer or Moderna 6 or more months ago who is in one of the eligibility criteria (65 years or older, 18 years or older with underlying medical conditions, 18 or older and works or lives in high-risk setting or is a resident of long-term care) may receive a booster of Pfizer, Moderna (half-dose) or Johnson and Johnson.
- **Example Two:** An individual who was vaccinated with Johnson and Johnson 2 or more months ago who is 18 years or older may receive a booster of Pfizer, Moderna (half-dose) or Johnson and Johnson.

## Resources

Please refer to the resources below for specifics regarding booster doses and heterologous use of vaccine:

- CDC will update the [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#) to reflect updated guidance.
- [CDC Expands Eligibility for COVID-19 Booster Shots | CDC Online Newsroom | CDC](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: FDA Takes Additional Actions on the Use of a Booster Dose for COVID-19 Vaccines | FDA](#)
- [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine | FDA](#)
- [Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine | FDA](#)
- [Comirnaty and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine | FDA](#)
- A CDC Clinician Outreach and Communication Activity (COCA) webinar is scheduled this Tuesday October 26th from 1:00 - 2:00 pm and can be accessed online at: [Webinar October 26, 2021 - What Clinicians Need to Know about the Recent Updates to CDC's Recommendations for COVID-19 Boosters](#)

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***Alerting Message Specification Settings***

**Originating Agency:** Mississippi State Department of Health  
**Alerting Program:** MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)  
**Message Identifier:** MSHAN-20211025-00545-ALT  
**Program (HAN) Type:** Health Alert  
**Status (Type):** Actual ()  
**Message Type:** Alert  
**Reference:** MSHAN-00545  
**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



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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)).