Updated Recommendations for Second COVID-19 Vaccine Booster

- On March 29, 2022, the FDA authorized a second booster dose of COVID-19 mRNA vaccines for certain immunocompromised individuals and people 50 years of age and older. The CDC updated its COVID-19 recommendations to allow for the expanded eligibility of a second booster on the same day. Data suggests that there is waning protection over time in older and immunocompromised persons, potentially leading to serious outcomes from COVID-19 in these individuals.

- The updated recommendations are as follows:
  - A second booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine or Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine may be administered to individuals 50 years of age and older at least 4 months after receipt of a first booster dose of any authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine.
  - A second booster dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine may be administered to individuals 12 years of age and older with certain kinds of immunocompromise at least 4 months after receipt of a first booster dose of any authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine. These are people who have undergone solid organ transplantation, or who are living with conditions that are considered to have an equivalent level of immunocompromise.
  - A second booster dose of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine may be administered at least 4 months after the first booster dose of any authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine to individuals 18 years of age and older with the same certain kinds of immunocompromise.

- People with immunocompromising conditions or people who take immunosuppressive medications or therapies are at increased risk for severe COVID-19. See Clinical Guidance for COVID-19 Vaccination | CDC for a description of moderate and severe immunocompromising conditions and treatment. The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) asks providers to use their discretion and clinical judgement when determining eligibility of a second booster based on immunocompromising conditions.

- As a reminder, a first booster dose of mRNA vaccine is recommended for all individuals 12 years and older at least 5 months after completion of a primary series of COVID-19 vaccine.
Mississippi Data

- Much work is left in Mississippi to increase the number of individuals fully vaccinated with a primary series and to increase the number of individuals with at least one booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine. To date, only 51% of the total population in Mississippi is fully vaccinated with a primary series, and only 37% of those eligible have received a first booster dose.
- Of the approximately 790,000 persons 50 years and older who are eligible for a first booster dose in the state (based on completion of a primary series), only 51% have received a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine. The percentage of first booster dose completion increases with age: 62% of eligible individuals 65 years and older up to date with one booster dose, and 66% of eligible individuals 75 and older up to date with one booster.
- In Mississippi, 97% of the COVID-19 associated deaths between March 1 and March 28, 2022, are in individuals 50 years of age and older; and most of those are in persons 50 years or older who were never vaccinated or were eligible for a booster but never received it. Of the deaths in persons 50 years and older during this timeframe, 57% percent are in unvaccinated individuals, and an additional 27% are in persons fully vaccinated with a primary series who were eligible, but never received a booster.
- Mississippi physicians and providers are encouraged to continue efforts to provide COVID-19 vaccine and boosters doses for all eligible individuals. Recent data published from the CDC estimates vaccine effectiveness was 83% against COVID-19 associated emergency department/urgent care visits and 90% against COVID-19 associated hospitalizations after 3 doses of mRNA vaccine (primary series and booster dose).

Resources:

- [CDC Recommends Additional Boosters for Certain Individuals | CDC Online Newsroom | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/boosters.html)
- [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)](https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm7135a2.htm?s_cid=mm7135a2_w)

Regards,

Paul Byers, MD
State Epidemiologist
### Alerting Message Specification Settings

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Originating Agency:</th>
<th>Mississippi State Department of Health</th>
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### 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)).