

COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots

An additional dose or booster is now available for people with moderate to severe immunocompromise. Below is new information from NC DHHS:

When can it be administered?

- An additional dose of a vaccine is administered when the immune response following a primary vaccine series is likely to be insufficient.
- An additional mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose has already been authorized by the FDA and recommended by the CDC for moderately to severely immunocompromised people after an initial 2-dose primary mRNA vaccine series.
- You may administer an additional dose to patients who self-attest to being moderately to severely immunocompromised.
- Providers can reference vaccineinfo communications from August 17 for detailed operational guidance.

Is the standing order updated and where can it be found?

- The Statewide Standing Order for FDA Authorized Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Administration has been updated to reflect the approval of additional doses of COVID-19 vaccine for moderately and severely immunocompromised people.
- You can view this order on the NCDHHS website's Guidance section: [Statewide Standing Order for FDA Authorized Pfizer and Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Administration \(August 16, 2021\)](#)

Is there operational guidance?

- The patient may self-attest to their moderately or severely immunocompromised status.
- This should be documented by providers within CVMS or their system of record.
- Providers can utilize the free-form "Notes" field on the Vaccine Administration page in CVMS when administering the vaccine or a comparable section in an alternative system of record being used.
- To document an additional dose in the COVID-19 Vaccine Management System (CVMS):
 1. Connect to the Provider Portal at <https://covid-vaccine-provider-portal.ncdhhs.gov>
 2. Click on NCID and enter your username and password
 3. From the **HOME** tab, search for the recipient in the **APPOINTMENT WALK-IN TOOL** (note that an ADDITIONAL DOSE cannot be scheduled using the CVMS Scheduling feature)

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4. Select the appropriate recipient, and click the **APPOINTMENT BOOKING** button
5. Click the recipient's name under **TODAY'S APPOINTMENTS** on the Home Tab
6. Document the vaccine administration details, and select the **ADDITIONAL DOSE** button to indicate the dose (note that doses that have already been logged will appear grayed out)
7. Complete the documentation of the vaccine administration

Are Booster Shots Anticipated for General Population?

- A booster dose is administered when the initial sufficient immune response to a primary vaccine series is likely to have waned over time or the circulating variants.
- The White House announced today that planning is underway to support booster shots for the general population who received the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines.
- Boosters will be available pending authorization by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- NCDHHS is preparing for boosters and will be ready once given the go-ahead from the FDA and CDC. **No booster doses are authorized or recommended at this time, until further guidance is provided by the FDA and CDC.**
- Please see the [full statement from US HHS](#), indicating preparation to offer booster shots for the general population beginning potentially as early as the week of September 20 and likely starting eight months after an individual's second dose pending FDA authorization and CDC recommendations.

Why COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shots?

- The COVID-19 vaccines authorized in the United States continue to be remarkably effective in reducing risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death, even against the widely circulating Delta variant. Although we continue to see stable and highly effective protection against hospitalizations and severe outcomes for people who are fully vaccinated, **we are seeing a decrease in vaccine effectiveness against infection.**
- The CDC released three Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Reports (MMWR) today that reinforced the high level of stable protection and vaccine effectiveness against hospitalization, but did show a decreased vaccine effectiveness preventing infection. Those reports are available on the CDC's website: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/index.html>.
- **We have developed a plan to begin offering these booster shots this fall** subject to FDA conducting an independent evaluation and determination of the safety and effectiveness of a third dose of the Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines and CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) issuing booster dose

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recommendations based on a thorough review of the evidence. **Only after a thorough review of the evidence will CDC's independent advisory committee make recommendations on the use of boosters for the public.**