



Orange County

ATTENTION

STEVEN M. NEUHAUS
County Executive

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

Dr. Irina Gelman, DPM, MPH, PhDc
Commissioner of Health

January 24, 2022

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE TO AND POST CONSPICUOUSLY IN PEDIATRIC, FAMILY PRACTICE, PRIMARY CARE, EMERGENCY ROOM, INTERNAL MEDICINE, URGENT CARE, INFECTIOUS DISEASE, OB/GYN, AMBULATORY SERVICES, LABORATORIES, AMBULATORY CARE STAFF, HOSPITALS, NURSING HOMES, ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES, SKILLED -NURSING FACILITIES, LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES, CONGREGATE LIVING SETTINGS, PHARMACIES, MUNICIPALITIES, COUNTY STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS, SENIOR ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES AND ALL SCHOOLS AND EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES, AND ORANGE COUNTY RESIDENTS.

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT #2
Third and Booster Dose CDC Recommendations

Recently, the CDC made several updates to its recommendations for use of COVID-19 vaccines.

Third dose

Currently, the CDC recommends that moderately to severely immunocompromised people receive an additional (third) dose as part of their primary vaccine series, which has been approved for emergency use for Pfizer (**ages 5 and older**) and Moderna (**ages 18 and older**). This includes, but is not limited to, people who have:

- Been 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

Healthcare providers should speak with patients who received a third dose as part of their primary vaccine series about receiving a booster dose **5** months after the last dose (3rd dose) for a total of **4 doses**.

Booster dose

The CDC recommends everyone, who are medically able to tolerate it, ages **12 and older**, get a Pfizer booster or ages **18 and older**, get a Moderna booster dose. Healthcare providers should speak to their patients about receiving a booster at least **5** months after completing their COVID-19 primary vaccine series if they received Pfizer or Moderna.

Healthcare providers should speak to their patients who received Johnson & Johnson (J&J) about receiving a booster dose at least 2 months after completing their last COVID-19 vaccination.

Although, a heterologous (mix and match) series of FDA authorized/approved vaccine is permitted, and was deemed safe, the optimal combination, interval and dose efficacy remains unknown. If it does not delay vaccination, a homologous (same dose as primary vaccine series) should be the first choice **unless** J&J was received as a primary dose. If that is the case, the CDC recommends those individuals receive an mRNA booster. If an mRNA booster is not available, J&J should be given as not to delay the timing of the booster dose.

The latest CDC guidance is available in [CDC's Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines](#).

If you have questions, please call Orange County Department of Health at 845-291-2330.