



Beaufort County Public Health Department

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The Health Department would like to update and provide additional information regarding 3rd doses and an additional dose, referred to as a booster.

Currently, third doses of Pfizer or Moderna are available for those who are immunocompromised. The CDC recommends that individuals with the following receive this 3rd dose:

- 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.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also recommends talking to your healthcare provider about your medical condition, and whether getting an additional dose is appropriate for you.

BCHD currently offers 3rd dose vaccine appointments for those who are immunocompromised. Appointments can be made online through the Health Department website booking system or by calling Beaufort County's COVID-19 call center at 252-940-6150. Most doctor offices will also be able to administer this additional dose as well.

In contrast to the 3rd dose recommendation above, a booster is given when there is evidence that shows a decrease in the protection against a virus over time. Studies by both Pfizer and Moderna have found a reduction in protection does exist following the completion of their vaccine series and are currently seeking approval for booster shots. Johnson & Johnson continues to evaluate the effectiveness of their shot over time.

Booster shots will be subject to an independent evaluation by the FDA to determine its safety and effectiveness. The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will then complete a thorough review of the FDA's findings and make recommendations on the use of boosters for the public.

The FDA is expected to meet today (September 17th) to review Pfizer's booster recommendations. If the recommendation is approved, the CDC's ACIP is expected to meet September 22nd and 23rd. Additional clinical guidance may include timing or recommendations for administration of the booster to particular

groups (ex. – health care workers or 65+). CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Provider Agreements require FDA, CDC and ACIP action before shots are to be given.

Pfizer is the only vaccine manufacturer currently seeking approval by the FDA for booster shots. While Moderna and J&J continue to evaluate the need for a booster, they have not yet submitted those recommendations to the FDA.

We encourage everyone to continue to monitor Beaufort County's Health Department webpage (www.bchd.net) for updates.