



8/17/21

Subject: Third COVID-19 Vaccine Doses for People who are Moderately or Severely Immunocompromised

On Thursday, Aug. 12th, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) amended the Emergency Use Authorizations (EUAs) for both the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine and Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine to allow a third dose to be administered to people who are moderately or severely immunocompromised following a primary mRNA vaccine series. See the [FDA's Press Release here](#).

Subsequently, CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended that people with moderately to severely compromised immune systems receive a third dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine following their initial 2-dose vaccination series. CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky endorsed those recommendations. See the full [CDC Media Statement here](#).

Below is a list of resources related to the recommendation:

- [Updated Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States](#)
- New [web page](#) for consumers
- New [web page](#) for healthcare providers

While people who are immunocompromised make up about 3% of the U.S. adult population, they are especially vulnerable to COVID-19 because they are more at risk of serious, prolonged illness. Included in CDC's recommendation are people with a range of conditions, such as recipients of organ or stem cell transplants, people with advanced or untreated HIV infection, active recipients of treatment for cancer, people who are taking some medications that weaken the immune system, and others. A [full list of conditions](#) can be found on CDC's website. The third dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine should be the same vaccine as the initial series and administered at least four weeks after completing a primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series. While vaccination is likely to increase protection in this population, even after vaccination, people who are immunocompromised should continue follow [current](#) prevention measures (including wearing [a mask](#), [staying 6 feet apart from others](#) they do not live with, and avoiding crowds and poorly ventilated indoor spaces) to protect themselves and those around them against COVID-19 until advised otherwise by their healthcare provider. At a time when the Delta variant is surging, an additional dose could help prevent serious and possibly life-threatening COVID-19 cases within moderately or severely immunocompromised populations. It is important to note that CDC does **not** recommend additional doses or booster shots for any other population at this time. Vaccine providers should administer vaccine in accordance with the [updated EUAs](#) per the [COVID-19 vaccine provider agreement](#).

It's important to note that individuals can self-attest and receive the third dose wherever vaccines are offered. This will help ensure there are not additional barriers to access for this vulnerable population receiving a needed third dose. Please assure that your vaccination screening process is updated appropriately. CDC will be providing further information regarding vaccine administration to immunocompromised individuals to states, pharmacies, health centers, and all vaccine providers.