



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Alert**

MESSAGE ID: MSHAN-20210816-00530-ALT (Health Alert)

RECIPIENTS: All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, and
Healthcare Providers – Statewide

Monday, August 16, 2021

SUBJECT: Updated Guidance for an Additional Dose or Third
Dose of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine for
Immunocompromised Individuals

- On Thursday August 12, 2021, the FDA authorized the administration of an additional dose of COVID-19 mRNA vaccine (Pfizer and Moderna) for certain immunocompromised individuals, specifically individuals who are solid organ transplant recipients and/or those with an equivalent level of immunocompromise. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Update: FDA Authorizes Additional Vaccine Dose for Certain Immunocompromised Individuals | FDA](#)
- On Friday August 13, 2021, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) provided updated recommendations for the administration of an additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine dose for moderately to severely immunocompromised people after an initial 2-dose primary mRNA vaccine series, which have been endorsed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). See the [Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines | CDC](#)
- **Due to insufficient data, the EUA amendment for an additional dose does not apply to Janssen COVID-19 vaccine or to individuals who received Janssen COVID-19 as a primary series (please see previous Health Alert Message from MSDH issued on July 23, 2021 for considerations regarding Johnson and Johnson or Janssen COVID-19 vaccine [15013.pdf \(ms.gov\)](#))**

The guidance from the CDC and the Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) is as follows:

An additional dose of an mRNA COVID-19 (Pfizer or Moderna) vaccine after an initial 2-dose primary mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series should be considered for people with moderate to severe immune compromise due to a medical condition or receipt of immunosuppressive medications or treatments. These conditions and treatments include but are not limited to:

- Active treatment for solid tumor and hematologic malignancies
- Receipt of solid-organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy
- Receipt of CAR-T-cell or hematopoietic stem cell transplant (within 2 years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy)
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection

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- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids (i.e., ≥ 20 mg prednisone or equivalent per day), alkylating agents, antimetabolites, transplant-related immunosuppressive drugs, cancer chemotherapeutic agents classified as severely immunosuppressive, tumor-necrosis (TNF) blockers, and other biologic agents that are immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory.

Additional Factors to Consider

- The additional dose of an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine should be administered at least 28 days after completion of the initial 2-dose mRNA COVID-19 vaccine series.
- **Use the same vaccine product, when feasible:** People who need an additional dose and received either a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine series should receive a third dose of the same vaccine used for the primary two-dose series.
- Providers and clinics that administer an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine for immunocompromised individuals as above must document the additional dose in the Mississippi immunization registry (MIIX), as with any previous doses of COVID-19 vaccine.
- Serologic testing as part of the assessment for an additional dose for those individuals with moderate to severe immune compromise is not currently recommended.
- It is important to reinforce the need for continued prevention measures among immunocompromised individuals. People who are immunocompromised, including those who receive an additional mRNA COVID-19 vaccine after the initial 2-dose series, should continue to wear a mask in indoor public areas, avoid crowds and poorly ventilated indoor areas, and continue to stay 6 feet apart from people they don't live with.
- Close contacts of immunocompromised individuals are strongly encouraged to be vaccinated against COVID-19 to protect this vulnerable population.
- Note that the definition for fully vaccinated individuals is still considered to be 2 weeks after two doses (primary series) of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine, or 2 weeks after one dose on Janssen COVID-19 vaccine, even for immunocompromised individuals.
- Providers may consider a model for self-attestation of immunocompromised status of an individual in their settings in order to reduce barriers to vaccination.
- Whenever possible, mRNA COVID-19 vaccination doses (including the primary series and an additional dose) should be completed at least two weeks before initiation or resumption of immunosuppressive therapies. A patient's clinical team is best positioned to determine the degree of immune compromise and appropriate timing of vaccination.

At this time, the third or additional dose is not available through the MSDH County Health Department or other MSDH vaccination clinics, but MSDH is exploring ways to put this in place in the future. Patients with potentially immunocompromising conditions should consult with their primary care providers.



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Additional Resources

- [Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine](#)
- [Webinar August 17, 2021 - Additional mRNA COVID-19 Vaccines for Moderately to Severely Immunocompromised People \(cdc.gov\)](#)

Regards,
Paul Byers, MD
State Epidemiologist



Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program: MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
Message Identifier: MSHAN-20210816-00530-ALT
Program (HAN) Type: Health Alert
Status (Type): Actual ()
Message Type: Alert
Reference: MSHAN-00530
Severity: Unknown
Acknowledgement: No
Sensitive: Not Sensitive
Message Expiration: Undetermined
Urgency: Undetermined
Delivery Time: 600 minutes

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)).