



Buncombe County Health & Human Services

Public Assistance & Work Support Strategies ~ Public Health ~ Social Work Services ~ Veterans Services

8/16/2021

Dear Homeless Service Providers,

I wanted to provide you with this summary of **CDC's recent recommendation for a 3rd Dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer or Moderna) for persons who are moderately to severely immunocompromised.**

- People who are moderately or severely immunocompromised and have received 2 doses of either the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines now can get a 3rd dose of the vaccine to try to increase their immune response to the vaccine.
- The types of conditions and medications that can cause moderate to severe immune compromise 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
 - Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids (≥ 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.
- COVID-19 vaccine providers across NC are now able to administer these additional doses.
- BCHHS is not requiring clients of our vaccine clinic to provide documentation from a healthcare provider as proof of their immune compromise. Clients must attest (either by written or oral statement) that they are moderately to severely immunocompromised. We encourage individuals who are immune compromised to consult with the healthcare provider if they have questions about whether and when they should get an additional dose of vaccine.
- The 3rd dose of vaccine should be given at least 28 days after the 2nd dose of vaccine.
- The 3rd dose given should be the same brand of vaccine as the initial 2-dose vaccine series.

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- If someone who is moderately to severely immunocompromised received the J&J vaccine, there currently is no recommendation for additional doses of COVID-19 vaccine, due to lack of data. The FDA and CDC are working to provide additional guidance on this issue.
- The recommendation for an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine is only for people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised. There currently is no recommendation for a booster dose of vaccine for the general public.
- People who are immunocompromised, including those who receive a 3rd dose of COVID-19 vaccine, still have the potential for a reduced immune response to COVID-19 vaccine and need to continue to follow other prevention measures, like the 3Ws to protect themselves against COVID-19.
- The BCHHS COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic is at 40 Coxe Ave. and is open Mon-Fri from 9a-4p to walk-ins. We can vaccinate those 12 years of age and older, and currently have all three authorized vaccines available onsite.
- If your agency is interested in scheduling an onsite vaccine clinic, please reach out to Malena.Bullard@buncombecounty.org with your request.

If you have any questions about the information in this memo, please let me know.

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