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Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

**Pfizer booster shot available for those 65+,
others with increased risk and certain occupations**

On September 22, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) amended the emergency use authorization (EUA) for the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to provide for a single booster dose, to be administered at least six months after completion of the primary series. The CDC's Advisory Committee voted on September 23 to recommend the booster dose for:

- individuals 65 years of age and older and long-term care facility residents;
- Individuals 50-64 with underlying medical conditions. A list of medical conditions that increase risk for severe disease is broad and can be found [here](#);
- Individuals 18-49 with underlying medical conditions may receive a booster dose based on individual benefit and risk; and
- the CDC also recommends that individuals aged 18-64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and infection because of occupational or residential setting may receive a booster of Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their primary series, based on individual benefit and risk. Occupational and residential settings that increase risk for exposure are very broad and involve anyone who may, through their work or residence, spend increased time where physical distancing is difficult and includes health care workers, teachers, and frontline essential workers.

The authorization applies only to the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. Individuals who received a Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccination are not eligible for the booster shot at this time. The CDC has stated that they will address recommendations for these vaccines as soon as data is available.

"The FDA and CDC went through a rigorous process of data review involving doctors, scientists and leading vaccine experts before making this decision," said Dr. Josh Meyerson, Medical Director with the Health Department of Northwest Michigan. "Consideration was given to real-world data on the Pfizer vaccine's efficacy over a sustained period of time provided by both U.S. and international sources," he said, adding that the vaccine has been proven to be safe and effective – both the initial two-dose administration and now the booster shot.

These recommendations are separate from the recommendations for an additional dose in persons who are immunosuppressed due to underlying medical conditions or immune-suppressing medications. For immunocompromised individuals an additional dose of an mRNA vaccine should be given anytime 28 days after completion of their primary series.

For qualifying residents and others within the Health Department of Northwest Michigan four-county jurisdiction of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego counties, to sign up for the Pfizer booster shot:

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality healthcare, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties. For more information, visit nwhealth.org.

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1. Register for any clinic offering the Pfizer vaccine. A list of clinic dates, times and locations is available at the [health department website](#).
2. Call the Michigan COVID-19 hotline at 888-535-6136 for assistance in scheduling an appointment.

“Individuals with questions about whether they qualify or if they would benefit from a booster shot, or other questions about the vaccine for themselves or family members, should talk to their primary care provider,” Dr. Meyerson said.

The health department offers convenient COVID-19 vaccination clinics for all area residents and visitors 12 and older either by appointment ahead of time or simply walking in. Parent consent is required for minors. Anyone may call 800-432-4121 if they have questions or are not able to find a time or date that works for them and/or their child. Clinics offer client choice of Pfizer, Moderna or J&J unless otherwise noted. Upcoming clinics for walk-ins or appointments include:

Wednesday, September 29

- 8:15-11:30 a.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 3434 M-119, Harbor Springs. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

Thursday, September 30

- 1-4:30 p.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 220 W Garfield Ave., Charlevoix. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

Monday, October 4

- 8:15-11:30 a.m. and 1-4:30 p.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 220 W Garfield Ave., Charlevoix. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

Wednesday, October 6

- 8:15-11:30 a.m. and 1-4:30 p.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 95 Livingston Blvd., Gaylord. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

Thursday, October 7

- 8:15-11:35 a.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 205 Grove St., Mancelona. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

Friday, October 8

- 8:15-11:35 a.m. and 1-4:30 p.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 3434 M-119, Harbor Springs. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

The calendar on the website www.nwhealth.org lists clinics currently scheduled through October 29.

Stay up to date on the latest information in the Health Department of Northwest Michigan jurisdiction by [liking and following our Facebook page](#) and visiting our [COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#). To locate a testing facility, visit the [Michigan COVID-19 Test Finder website](#). To track the risk levels of COVID-19 pandemic indicators, visit the [MI Safe Start Map website](#). For more information regarding the COVID-19 vaccine, visit the MDHHS [vaccine website](#) or the [CDC vaccine website](#).