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## **Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update**

### **Steps outlined for third dose and Pfizer booster shot**

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is putting together a simple checklist for area residents to determine their eligibility for the single booster shot of Pfizer, or a third dose of Pfizer or Moderna.

Questions have been asked regarding the difference between a third dose and a booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine, and how to obtain the additional dose. To clarify the latest recommendations, the health department is providing the following information and steps for residents.

- **Booster dose:** a single booster dose, to be administered at least six months after completion of the primary series for individuals that have received the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination only.
- **Third dose:** an additional dose administered to persons who are immunosuppressed due to underlying medical conditions or immune-suppressing medications. For immunocompromised individuals a third dose of an mRNA vaccine should be given anytime 28 days after completion of their primary series. Available to individuals that completed their Pfizer or Moderna vaccine series.

At this time, no additional or booster doses are recommended for people who received a J&J shot.

The steps to obtain the recently approved FDA single Pfizer booster dose, or a third dose of Pfizer or Moderna include:

**Step 1:** *If you received Moderna, move to step 2. Pfizer only:* How long ago did you receive your second dose?

- If less than six months ago, you may be eligible for a third dose. Move to step 2.
- If more than six months ago, you may be eligible for a booster dose. Move to step 3.

#### **Step 2: Eligibility for third dose. (Moderna or Pfizer)**

- Are you severely immunocompromised due to disease or immune-suppressing drug therapies, or has your care provider recommended that you receive an additional dose of the COVID-19 vaccine?
- Has it been at least 28 days since your second dose?

If you answered yes to both of the above questions, you are eligible for a third dose of the vaccination series you previously completed.

#### **Step 3: Eligibility for booster dose. (Pfizer only)**

- Has it been at least six months since your two-dose Pfizer series was completed?
- Are you 65 years of age and older or a long-term care facility resident? Are you 50-64 or 18-49 with underlying [medical conditions](#)? Are you 18-64 years and at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and infection because of occupational or residential setting (e.g. health care workers, teachers, frontline essential workers)?

*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](http://nwhealth.org).*

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If you answered yes to both of the above questions, you are eligible for a booster dose of the Pfizer vaccine.

**Step 4: Find a location.** The Pfizer booster vaccine and Moderna and Pfizer third dose are available at a variety of locations. You can check with local pharmacies (Rite Aid, Walgreen's, Meijer, others), and your primary care physician. In addition, the Health Department of Northwest Michigan has [weekly vaccination clinics](#) in each county of its four-county jurisdiction of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego. Those needing assistance to schedule an appointment with the health department can call the Michigan COVID-19 hotline at 888-535-6136. Pre-registration for clinic vaccination appointments is encouraged.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services released an [infographic explaining the difference between a third dose and booster shot](#).

"As more and more people have become eligible for the booster vaccination, we have added additional clinics and hours," said Lisa Peacock, Health Officer. "I encourage people to pre-register for the date and time that works best for their schedule. And, in addition to the booster shot, we are encouraging anyone 12 and older to get vaccinated as the number of cases, illness and hospitalizations continue to increase throughout our region and the state," Peacock 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:

**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. and 1-4:30 p.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](http://www.nwhealth.org) lists clinics currently scheduled through October 29.

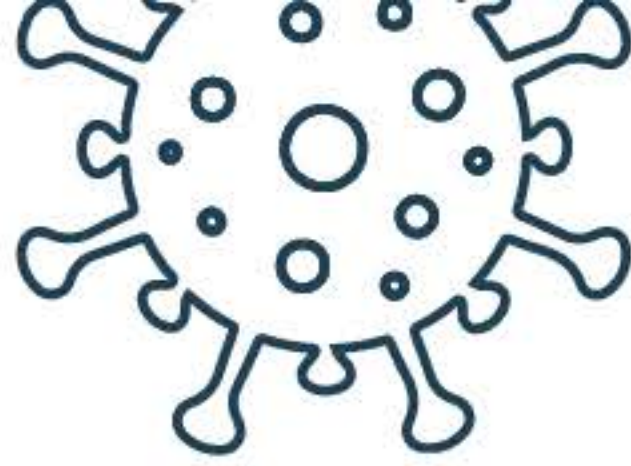
Stay up to date on the latest information in the Health Department of Northwest Michigan jurisdiction by [liking and following our Facebook page](#) and visiting our [COVID-19 Data Dashboard](#). To locate a testing facility, visit the [Michigan COVID-19 Test Finder website](#). To track the risk levels 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](#).

**CUTLINE:**

The attached infographic explains the difference between a third dose of Pfizer and a booster dose.



# What's the difference between a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose and an additional dose?



## booster dose



## additional dose

An **additional dose** is sometimes needed for people who are moderately to severely immunocompromised because they were likely unable to build enough protection after the initial primary vaccine series.

A **booster** is the next dose in a vaccination series to likely boost immunity that has waned over time.

The risk of severe illness from COVID-19 increases with age, and can also increase for adults of any age with underlying medical conditions. Please contact your primary care provider to see if you need an additional or booster dose.



### For

People aged 65 years and older, residents aged 18 years and older in long-term care settings, and people aged 56–64 years with certain underlying medical conditions **should get a booster dose.**

Based on individual benefits and risks, people aged 18–49 years who are at high risk for severe COVID-19 due to certain underlying medical conditions and people aged 18–64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure because of occupational\* or institutional setting **may get a booster dose.**

People who are moderately to severely immunocompromised **should get an additional dose.**

### Minimum time after 2<sup>nd</sup> dose

**6 months**

**28 days**

### Initial vaccine

**Pfizer**

**Pfizer or Moderna**

Plan to get the same type of vaccine for all doses.

\*Per CDC, occupations at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission include frontline essential workers and health care workers.