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October 25, 2021

Health Department of Northwest Michigan COVID-19 Update

**Booster shots now available through health department, other providers
for Moderna, J&J and Pfizer eligible residents**

Following approval by federal agencies, various individuals who received the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine are now eligible to get a booster shot 6 months following completion of their primary series. This includes people ages 65 and older; individuals 18 through 64 years of age at high risk of severe COVID-19 due to underlying health conditions; and those at high risk of COVID-19 infection due to occupational or institutional exposure. Everyone who received the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) should get a booster dose if it has been two months since their first dose.

The approval late last week of a booster for those originally receiving the Moderna and J&J vaccines by the Food and Drug Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, is in addition to an earlier approval for a booster shot for those eligible who previously received a Pfizer vaccine.

“We know the vaccines work and the booster will increase that level of protection,” said Dr. Joshua Meyerson, Medical Director for the Health Department of Northwest Michigan. “We are urging those who are eligible to receive the booster shot to do so by making an appointment at any of our clinics in our four-county jurisdiction,” he said, adding that, based on availability, COVID-19 clinics should have all three vaccines available for clients.

There are now booster recommendations for all three available COVID-19 vaccines in the United States. Eligible individuals may choose which vaccine they receive as a booster dose. Some people may have a preference for the vaccine type they originally received, and others may prefer to get a different brand. CDC’s recommendations now allow for this type of mix and match dosing for booster shots.

For individuals who received an mRNA (Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna) COVID-19 primary vaccine, the following groups are eligible for a booster shot at six months or more after their initial series:

- 65 years and older.
- Age 18+ who live in [long-term care settings](#).
- Age 18+ who have [underlying medical conditions](#).
- Age 18+ who work or live in [high-risk settings](#).

People over age 18 who received a single dose of the J&J (Janssen) vaccine **should** receive a single COVID-19 booster dose at least two months after completing their primary series.

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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According to the CDC, [occupations at increased risk](#) for COVID-19 exposure and transmission include frontline essential workers and health care workers including:

- First responders (EMS, health care workers, firefighters, police, congregate care staff).
- Education staff (teachers, support staff, daycare workers).
- Food and agriculture workers.
- Manufacturing workers.
- Corrections workers.
- U.S. Postal Service workers
- Public transit workers.
- Grocery store workers.

After a careful examination of the [latest data](#), and deliberative discussion around booster shots, the updated guidance from CDC follows the FDA's [October 20th amendment](#) of the emergency use authorizations for COVID-19 vaccines to allow for the use of a single booster dose. Those who receive a Moderna booster will get a dose half the amount received during the primary series.

Those attending a clinic should bring their COVID-19 vaccine card or immunization record with them when getting their booster dose, which are available through the health department or at any vaccine provider that have Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson and Johnson vaccines.

The health department recently created documents listing COVID-19 [vaccination clinics](#) and [testing sites](#) in Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet and Otsego counties. Residents are urged to check the individual clinic sites listed for vaccine availability Moderna (age 18+), Pfizer (age 12+), and Johnson & Johnson (age 18+). Parent/guardian must accompany minors.

[Booster shots](#) are available if you received the Pfizer vaccine more than 6 months ago and are:

- Age 65+
- Resident or staff in long-term care settings
- Age 18+ and have [underlying medical conditions](#) including asthma, diabetes, obesity
- Age 18+ and work in [high-risk settings](#) including healthcare workers, teachers, grocery store workers

[Additional doses](#) are recommended for immunocompromised individuals who have received their second dose Pfizer or Moderna at least 28 days ago.

The health department offers convenient COVID-19 vaccination clinics for all area residents and visitors 12 and older by appointment ahead of time. 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 appointments only include:

Thursday, October 28

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

Friday, October 29

- 8:15-11:35 a.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 95 Livingston Blvd., Gaylord. To schedule an appointment: [Click Here](#)

- 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](#)

Monday, November 1

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

Wednesday, November 3

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

Thursday, November 4

- 1-4:30 p.m. - Health Department of Northwest Michigan, 205 Grove St., Mancelona. To schedule an appointment:[Click Here](#)

Friday, November 5

- 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 November 30.

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: This graphic from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services illustrates who is eligible for a COVID-19 booster shot.

Who is eligible for an extra dose of COVID-19 vaccine?

Remember to bring a copy of your COVID-19 vaccine record with you to your appointment.

Some people may prefer a different vaccine type for their booster; mixing and matching is allowed.



If you are **immunocompromised** and have had your initial 2 doses of Pfizer or Moderna, get a 3rd dose at least **28 days** after dose 2.

If your initial 2 doses were **Pfizer** or **Moderna**, you qualify for a booster dose at least **6 months** after dose 2 if:

You are 65+ years.

You are 18+ years and live in a long-term care setting.

OR

You are 18+ years with an underlying medical condition.

You are 18+ years and at high risk of COVID-19 because of where you live or work.

Talk to your doctor about your individual benefits and risks.

If your initial dose was **Johnson & Johnson** and you are 18+ years, you qualify for a booster dose at least **2 months** after your initial dose.

