



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE
Dave A. Chokshi, MD, MSc
Commissioner

October 22, 2021

Dear Colleague,

On October 21, 2021, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended COVID-19 vaccine booster doses for all adults who received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and some adults who received the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine primary series. This follows recommendations from the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices and expanded [Emergency Use Authorizations \(EUAs\)](#) from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Eligibility and timing for booster doses varies based on the product used for the primary vaccine series. For people who received the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine, booster doses are recommended for everyone ages 18 years and older who were vaccinated at least two months ago. For people who received a Moderna or Pfizer vaccine, the following groups are eligible for a booster dose at six months after their initial series: people ages 65 years and older, people ages 18 years and older who live in long-term care settings, people ages 18 years and older who have certain [underlying medical conditions](#), and people ages 18 years and older who work or live in [high-risk settings](#).

Any FDA-authorized or approved COVID-19 vaccine can be used as a booster dose. Allowance for this flexibility was based on data from the [Mix and Match Booster Study](#) conducted by the National Institutes of Health. For Johnson & Johnson and Pfizer booster doses, the dosage is the same as the primary COVID-19 vaccine series for these products (5×10^{10} VP/0.5 mL for Johnson & Johnson; 30 mcg/0.3 mL for Pfizer). **For Moderna booster doses, the dosage is 50 mcg/0.25 mL, half the dose used in the primary Moderna series.** Clinic operations and workflows should be put in place to ensure administration of the correct dosage. The EUAs require healthcare providers to report any vaccine administration errors, including incorrect dosage, to the [Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System \(VAERS\)](#).

The CDC is expected to release detailed clinical considerations for selecting a COVID-19 vaccine booster product in the coming days and we will communicate these updates as they become available.

Vaccinating unvaccinated people with a primary COVID-19 vaccine series should continue to be the top priority for health care providers. For public health purposes, people are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after completion of the primary series.

Thank you for staying informed about the latest vaccine guidance for your patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jane R. Zucker'.

Jane R. Zucker, MD, MSc
Assistant Commissioner
Bureau of Immunization