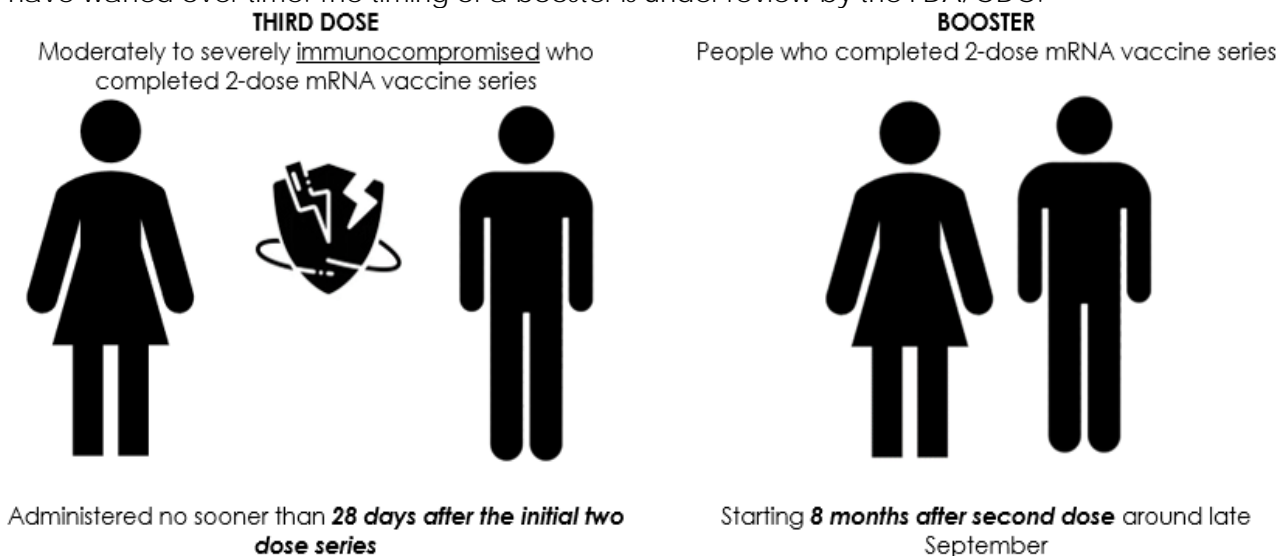


As a trusted advisor and partner, Consonus Pharmacy is prepared to keep you informed about updated guidance regarding COVID-19 vaccine and treatment recommendations. As we have throughout the pandemic, Consonus will continue to work with State Health Departments as LTC advocates.

**Q:** Can you clarify the difference between a third dose and a booster?

**A:** **Third dose:** People who have compromised immune systems should receive a third dose of vaccine after the initial 2 doses. The third dose should be given at least 4 weeks following the second dose. A third dose is recommended because the immune response to the first and second dose may not have been sufficient due to immunocompromised health status.

**Booster:** People that had a sufficient immune response to the primary vaccine series will likely be eligible to receive a booster dose in the future. A booster dose is intended to boost an immune response that may have waned over time. The timing of a booster is under review by the FDA/CDC.



**Q:** Is the booster dose going to be available to adults ≥65 years of age, long-term care residents and healthcare personnel starting in late September?

**A:** The CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will be meeting August 30<sup>th</sup>- 31<sup>st</sup> to determine if the vaccine Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) will be amended to include a recommendation for a booster dose for all individuals, including adults ≥65 years of age, long-term care residents and healthcare personnel. We anticipate this meeting will bring clarity to many of the clinical and logistical questions around a booster dose.

In the meantime, we encourage our Consonus clients to activate in the Vaccine Continuity Program to provide third doses to immunocompromised patients and to prepare for future booster doses. We will provide helpful preparation tips once we have the updated guidance from the CDC. If you have questions about how you can order the VaccPack from Consonus Pharmacy, please contact your consultant nurse or pharmacist. You may also email [vaccineorders@consonushealth.com](mailto:vaccineorders@consonushealth.com) or refer to Vaccine Activation FAQs on our website.

**Q:** What COVID-19 vaccine received full FDA approval?

**A:** Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine was approved by the FDA on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and will be marketed under the brand name **Comirnaty**. It was approved as a 2-dose series for prevention of COVID-19 in individuals 16 years and older.

This vaccine meets the high standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality the FDA requires of an approved product. **We hope the FDA approval will help instill additional confidence to get vaccinated.**

**Q:** Is the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) still active?

**A:** Yes, the EUA for Pfizer continues to apply for individuals ages 12-15 years old and for administration of a third dose to certain immunocompromised individuals over 12 years old.

Note: Comirnaty and the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine have the same formulation and can be used interchangeably to provide the vaccination series.

Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines continue to be available under EUAs.

**Q:** There is growing public interest in Ivermectin. Is it recommended for COVID-19?

**A:** No! While there are approved uses for ivermectin in people and animals, it is not approved for prevention or treatment of COVID-19. Ivermectin products for animals are different from the products for people and can be dangerous. Adverse effects associated with ivermectin misuse and overdose are increasing, as shown by a rise in calls to poison control centers reporting overdoses and more people experiencing adverse effects. Please review [these FAQs](#) from the FDA on this topic.

**Q:** What are some credible sources for resources for COVID-19 information or treatment?

**A:** National Institutes of Health updated their [COVID-19 Treatment Guidelines](#) on August 25, 2021. The guidelines include updated recommendations on the use of anti-SARS-CoV-2 monoclonal antibodies. Your Consonus pharmacists and nurses can also provide guidance based on available treatments and treatment guidelines.

**Q:** Are there any updates on when the influenza vaccine will be available this year?

**A:** Consonus will be sending updated communication to facilities via fax and in the totes by early next week. We do not anticipate any shortages and expect influenza vaccine to arrive by the end of September. As always, your Consonus team will be available to help you navigate through vaccination questions to ensure your residents and staff stay healthy.