

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

**Q: What is the difference between a third dose and a booster?**

**A:** Immunocompromised individuals that completed the initial primary vaccine series are now eligible for a third dose. This is because the immune response to the first and second dose may not have been sufficient due to their immunocompromised health status. For additional information on immune suppression refer to [CDC Yellow Book](#).

Individuals 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 that may waned over time.

**Q: Under the current Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), who is eligible for a third dose and when should it be given?**

**A:** Only immunocompromised patients qualify to receive a third dose. A third dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine or Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine can be administered at least 28 days following the first two doses.

**Q: When will my community/facility be able to get access to third dose vaccines?**

**A:** Consonus clients activated in the Vaccine Continuity Program can order vaccine now to be given as a third dose for immunocompromised patients. As with the first and second dose, immunocompromised patients should consult their provider before they receive ANY dose of COVID-19 vaccine.

**Q: Is a third dose going to be available to the adults ≥65 years of age, long-term care residents and healthcare personnel starting September 20th?**

**A:** On Tuesday, August 24th the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) will meet and 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.

**Q: Will the additional vaccine doses be the same as the original ones or different?**

**A:** The third dose approved in the EUA is the same formulation as the original vaccine. However, Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna are both evaluating other vaccines developed to specific variants like the Delta variant.

**Q: Why was the Johnson and Johnson vaccine not included in the EUA amendment for a third dose?**

**A:** The Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine received an EUA approximately two months after the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Because the Johnson and Johnson vaccine works differently from the Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna vaccines studies are currently being conducted to determine if a second dose should be recommended.