

Consonus Pharmacy is committed to ensuring our customers have the most accurate and up-to-date information regarding COVID-19 vaccine booster doses. Consonus is actively participating in conversations with State Health Departments and the CDC to keep you informed.

Q: What is a booster dose of a vaccine and why is it needed?

A: There are two distinct potential uses for an additional dose.

Additional dose after an initial primary vaccine series: administration of an additional vaccine dose when the initial immune response following a *primary vaccine series is likely to be insufficient.*

Booster dose: a dose of vaccine administered when the initial sufficient immune response to a primary vaccine series is likely to have *waned over time.*

Q: What vaccines were approved in the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for third dose?

A: Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine and Moderna COVID-19 vaccine EUA's were both amended to include guidance for use of a third dose in qualifying population. The EUA amendment for the additional dose for the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine dose does not apply.

Q: Who qualifies under the Emergency Use Authorization to receive a third COVID-19 vaccine dose?

A: Approximately 3% of the US population is immunocompromised and would qualify at this time to receive a third dose. This includes those who have:

- Been receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood
- Received an organ transplant and are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Received a stem cell transplant within the last 2 years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response

Q: If a patient qualifies under the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), when should the third dose be given?

A: A third dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine or Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine administered at least 28 days following the first two doses.

Q: Does the patient need a provider approval to qualify for the third dose?

A: Patients who are immunocompromised or are on a medicine that affects your immune system should *consult their provider before ANY dose of COVID-19 vaccine.* This includes first, second and third dose. The provider may assist to determine if the benefits outweigh risks of getting vaccinated. Additionally, provider can help the patient plan appropriate timing of administration so that it is given prior to instituting immunosuppressive therapy, allowing for maximum vaccine efficacy in immunocompromised patients.

As of now, the at-risk population including adults ≥ 65 years of age, LTCF residents, healthcare personnel are **not** categorically included in the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for a third dose.