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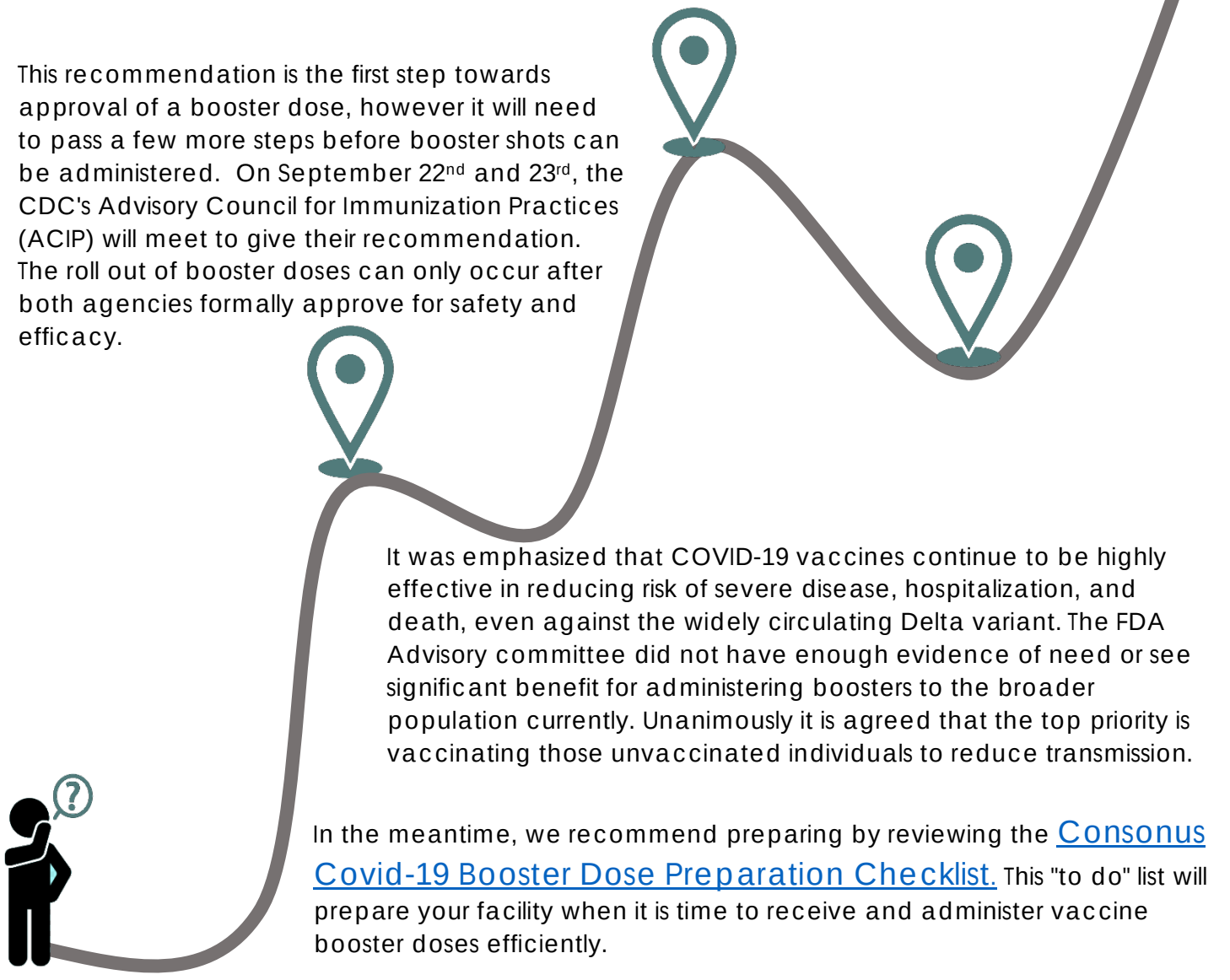
Ready, Set, Go

The FDA's Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) met on Friday, September 17th, to discuss approval of booster doses for Pfizer's COVID-19 vaccine, COMIRNATY. The committee, made up of independent reviewers, initially voted not to allow a booster for individuals ages 16 and up but then came back to unanimously recommend an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) for individuals over age 65 as well as high risk individuals and healthcare workers. Their recommendation for timing of booster was at least 6 months after the completing the 2-dose series.

This recommendation is the first step towards approval of a booster dose, however it will need to pass a few more steps before booster shots can be administered. On September 22nd and 23rd, the CDC's Advisory Council for Immunization Practices (ACIP) will meet to give their recommendation. The roll out of booster doses can only occur after both agencies formally approve for safety and efficacy.



It was emphasized that COVID-19 vaccines continue to be highly effective in reducing risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death, even against the widely circulating Delta variant. The FDA Advisory committee did not have enough evidence of need or see significant benefit for administering boosters to the broader population currently. Unanimously it is agreed that the top priority is vaccinating those unvaccinated individuals to reduce transmission.

In the meantime, we recommend preparing by reviewing the Consonus Covid-19 Booster Dose Preparation Checklist. This "to do" list will prepare your facility when it is time to receive and administer vaccine booster doses efficiently.

Consonus Pharmacy will keep you updated with any formal announcement on authorization of COVID-19 booster shots.