

October 1, 2021

Following the awaited FDA approval, COVID-19 booster vaccinations are underway at many of your communities. Congratulations on working diligently to ensure that your residents and staff are receiving this extra layer of protection from COVID-19. For those of you still planning for booster vaccinations at your communities, we are here to help!

Q: My community is not signed up with the Consonus Continuity Program yet. Can I still order COVID-19 vaccine from Consonus Pharmacy?

A: Yes. All Consonus customers are eligible to receive vaccine- it's never too late. Customers not yet enrolled in our Continuity Program should activate now. Please contact your consultant nurse or pharmacist if you have questions about enrolling. You may also [email](#) our Vaccine Coordinators or refer to [Vaccine Activation FAQs on our website](#).

Q: What different types of COVID-19 vaccines are available at Consonus?

	California	Nevada/Arizona	Oregon	Washington
Pfizer-BioNTech	●		●	●
J&J/Janssen		●		
Moderna		●	●	

Remember, **ONLY** the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine has been approved for use as a booster dose at least 6 months following the initial series.

Q: If I place an order for COVID-19 vaccine from Consonus when will it arrive?

A: To complete vaccine orders, Consonus asks for 48 hours to process. Your vaccine order will leave the pharmacy the evening before your planned vaccination day and arrive with your regular pharmacy delivery. Vaccine cannot be delivered for vaccination days scheduled on Sunday, Monday, or the day following a holiday, so please plan accordingly.

Vaccination Day	Latest Day to Order (By 6PM)
Tuesday	Sunday
Wednesday	Monday
Thursday	Tuesday
Friday	Wednesday
Saturday	Thursday

Q: How do I get a VARB (Vaccine Administration Reaction Box) if the contents of the one I have on-hand have expired or I have not ordered one in the past?

A: Before COVID-19 vaccine is administered, you MUST be prepared to treat any unexpected adverse reactions. Although severe reactions are rare, an Emergency Supply Box / VARB with Epi-Pen and diphenhydramine should be readily available. Each VARB contains Epi-Pens (x3) and diphenhydramine (x6). A VARB can be ordered from Consonus.

Q: [Should I expect post COVID-19 vaccination side effects to be similar or worse from a third or booster dose?](#)

A: Some people who received the initial vaccine series reported pain, swelling and redness at the injection site. Other individuals may have had tiredness, headache, muscle pain, chills, fever, and nausea. This may also happen with the booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine. These side effects are normal signs that your body is building protection and should go away within a few days. Pfizer clinical trial participants and data from the last month showed that adverse reactions after dose three were like those after dose two (79.4% and 74.1% reported local or systemic reactions after the third dose and 77.6% and 76.5% after the second dose).

Q: [How do providers administering Pfizer-BioNTech booster doses confirm the vaccine recipient successfully completed the initial two-dose series with the Pfizer vaccine?](#)

A: Providers should check the patient's CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Card and/or search for the patient's record in their State Immunization Information System (IIS), the Consonus Vaccine Administration System (VAS), or check with the State Department of Health to verify official record.

Currently the CDC recommends that people receive a booster shot from the same manufacturer as their initial Covid-19 vaccine. National Institutes of Health has been studying the safety and effectiveness of mixing and matching their initial Covid-19 vaccine with a booster from a different manufacturer. We expect the CDC to review data by the end of October.

Q: [Where can I find a consent form and/or updated standing orders for COVID-19 vaccinations?](#)

A: Consonus has updated the consent form in the "Help" section of their VAS. This has been updated to cover third doses and booster doses. Please ensure your standing orders are current and reviewed by all vaccine administrators.

Q: [Can the COVID-19 vaccine be administered at the same time as the seasonal influenza vaccine?](#)

A: Yes. Influenza vaccines can be safely co-administered with any COVID-19 vaccine primary series dose as well as the Pfizer-BioNTech booster dose. Refer to the "[Flu Vaccine FAQ](#)" for more information related to site selection

Q: [When will there be a booster dose available for Moderna or J&J/Janssen?](#)

A: More data on the effectiveness and safety of Moderna and J&J/Janssen booster vaccines is expected soon. Once those data are available, CDC will ensure the public is informed with a timely plan regarding Moderna and J&J/Janssen booster doses.