COVID-19 Vaccine Information Brief

September 10, 2021

Changes to the document from the previous version are highlighted in yellow.

SmartFind COVID-19 Vaccine ChatBot

CDC has launched a new resource - the SmartFind COVID-19 Vaccine ChatBot - to help quickly connect people, including healthcare providers, to clear, consistent, and credible information about COVID-19 vaccines. This ChatBot will also help CDC add and improve the information the agency shares online.
The automated ChatBot features include:

- Answers to common questions and answers about COVID-19 vaccines that are authorized and recommended, or undergoing large-scale (Phase 3) clinical trials in the United States
- 24-7 access to COVID-19 vaccine information on web-based devices, including mobile phones and tablets
- Links to additional resources, such as where to find a COVID-19 vaccination location

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ACIP Authorizes Additional Vaccine Dose (3rd Dose) for *Certain* Immunocompromised Individuals

Currently, CDC is recommending moderately to severely immunocompromised people receive an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine. The third dose should be the same product as the initial 2-dose mRNA COVID-19 primary vaccine series. **Fully vaccinated people with healthy immune systems or with conditions other than listed below, DO NOT need another dose of COVID-19 vaccine at this time. Administering an additional dose of COVID-19 vaccine to a healthy individual is outside the legal scope of the EUA and violates the COVID-19 Provider Agreement. The third dose recommendation only applies to mRNA COVID-19 vaccines, and does not include Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine.**

It's important to note that individuals can self-attest and receive the additional dose wherever vaccines are offered.

Moderately to severely immunocompromised people include:

- Active treatment for solid tumor and hematologic malignancies
- Receipt of solid-organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy
- Receipt of CAR-T-cell or hematopoietic stem cell transplant (within 2 years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy)
- Moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Advanced or untreated HIV infection
- Active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids (i.e., ≥20mg prednisone or equivalent per day), alkylating agents, antimetabolites, transplant-related immunosuppressive drugs, cancer chemotherapeutic agents classified as severely immunosuppressive, tumor-necrosis (TNF) blockers, and other biologic agents that are immunosuppressive or immunomodulatory.

Below is a list of resources related to the recommendation:

- Updated Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines Currently Authorized in the United States

- New web page for consumers
- New web page for healthcare providers

COVID-19 Vaccine Expiration Date Resources

Always be sure to check the manufacturer's website to obtain the most up-to-date expiration dates for COVID-19 vaccines. This is necessary for J&J vaccine as well as Moderna and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines. It is important for healthcare providers to update vaccine expiration dates in IRIS. Questions regarding IRIS vaccine inventory and adjusting expirations dates can be directed to the IRIS Helpdesk at 800-374-3958.

For EUA COVID-19 vaccines that do not have a final expiration date, the CDC has set an expiration date of 12/31/2069 to serve as a *placeholder date*. Such vaccines have a dynamic expiration date, which can change over time as additional stability data become available. This placeholder date, which is far in the future, is intended to serve as a prompt for the provider to check the latest expiry information on the manufacturer's website. **It is important for healthcare providers to update vaccine expiration dates in IRIS.**

Janssen COVID-19 vaccine: The expiration date is NOT printed on the vaccine vial or carton. To determine the expiration date:

- Scan the QR code located on the outer carton, or
- Call 1-800-565-4008, or
- Go to www.vaxcheck.jnj/

Moderna COVID-19 vaccine:
The expiration date is NOT printed on the vaccine vial or carton. To determine the expiration date:

- Scan the QR code located on the outer carton, or
- Go to www.modernatx.com/covid19vaccine-eua/

Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine: This vaccine product has an expiration date located on the vaccine vial.

CDC's COVID-19 Vaccine Expiration Date Tracking Tool can help providers keep track of the expiration date by lot number.

J&J/Janssen		Moderna		Pfizer	
Lot Number	Expiration	Lot Number	Expiration	Lot Number	Expiration
1808980	9/18/2021	016B21A	9/13/2021	EW0221	9/30/2021
043A21A	9/19/2021	017B21A	9/14/2021	EW0203	9/30/2021
042A21A	9/19/2021	018B21A	9/16/2021	EW0207	9/30/2021
041A21A	9/19/2021	026B21A	9/17/2021		9/30/2021
1808982	9/21/2021	027B21A	9/18/2021		
204A21A	9/21/2021	025B21A	9/19/2021		
201A21A	9/21/2021	030B21A	9/20/2021		
207A21A	9/21/2021	019B21A	9/21/2021		
203A21A	9/21/2021	031B21A	9/22/2021		
206A21A	9/21/2021	020B21A	9/23/2021		
202A21A	9/21/2021	032B21A	9/24/2021		
205A21A	9/21/2021	038B21A	9/25/2021		
208A21A	9/25/2021	021B21A	9/26/2021		
210A21A	9/25/2021	021B21A-1	9/26/2021		
209A21A	9/25/2021	033B21A	9/26/2021		
1816027	9/29/2021	036B21A	9/28/2021		
1816022	9/29/2021	022B21A	9/28/2021		
1816024	9/29/2021				

CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreements

Providers are responsible for adhering to all requirements outlined in the agreement. Specifically, providers must administer COVID-19 vaccines in accordance with all program requirements and recommendations of CDC, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, and the U.S Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This applies to both EUA and FDA approved COVID-19 vaccines. Accordingly, use of these products outside of those that have been approved and authorized by FDA (often referred to as "off-label use") is not recommended. It would violate the provider agreement and could expose providers to the following risks:

- Administration of the product off label may not be covered under the PREP Act or the PREP Act declaration; therefore, providers may not have immunity from claims.
- Individuals who receive an off-label dose may not be eligible for compensation under the Countermeasures Injury Compensation Program after a possible adverse event.
- CDC has defined the scope of the CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program in terms of how the USG-provided vaccines may be used in the program. Providers giving off-label doses would be in violation of the CDC Program provider agreement potentially impacting their ability to remain a provider in the CDC program.
- Administration fees may not be reimbursable by payers.

HHS Releases Plan for COVID-19 Booster Doses for all Americans

Health and Human Services (HHS) public health and medical experts released a joint statement on the plan for COVID-19 booster doses for all Americans beginning the week of September 20, 2021. At that time, the individuals who were fully vaccinated earliest in the vaccination rollout, including many health care providers, nursing home residents, and other seniors, will likely be eligible for a booster. **Approval is still required by the FDA and ACIP prior to booster doses being administered. Health care providers should NOT be administering booster doses at this time.** Since sufficient supplies of Pfizer and Moderna mRNA vaccines are available, priority groups for the purpose of booster doses will NOT be utilized.

HHS, CDC, and FDA continue to study data to understand how long vaccine protection lasts. The authorized COVID-19 vaccines continue to effectively reduce the risk of severe disease, hospitalization, and death, even against the highly prevalent Delta variant. Evidence has shown that over time vaccines provide less protection against mild and moderate COVID-19 disease in certain populations. People who are at higher risk or were vaccinated during the earlier phases of the vaccination rollout might need a booster dose to continue to have the maximum protection that the vaccines provide.

- Joint Statement from HHS Public Health and Medical Experts on COVID-19 Booster Shots

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Updated Guidance on Coadministration of COVID-19 Vaccine With Other Vaccines

COVID-19 vaccines and other vaccines may now be coadministered without regard to timing. Until recently, COVID-19 vaccines were recommended to be administered alone, with a minimum interval of 14 days before or after administration of any other vaccines.

- Interim Clinical Considerations for Use of COVID-19 Vaccines|CDC

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COVID-19 Vaccine Access and Wastage Guidance

Take every opportunity to vaccinate every eligible person. As COVID-19 vaccine supply is more available, and opportunities to vaccinate Iowa residents may become more sporadic, focus should shift towards ensuring vaccination of all eligible persons even at the risk of wasting unused doses. The Department supports and encourages efforts to administer vaccine to all eligible individuals and is providing updated guidance on COVID-19 Vaccine Access and Wastage Guidance. The Department recommends every effort is made to vaccinate eligible persons who present at a vaccine clinic location. A multi-dose vial may be punctured to vaccinate one or more persons who present for vaccination. Ultimately, the remaining doses of vaccine in the vial may need to be wasted. At this point in Iowa's pandemic response, it is more critical to ensure people who want to be vaccinated are able to do so.

The CDC COVID-19 Vaccination Program Provider Agreement requires providers to report the number of doses wasted, unused, spoiled, or expired to IRIS. Healthcare providers can use the Adjusting COVID-19 Vaccine Inventory for Wastage instructions to account for wasted doses. IRIS staff are available to help manage IRIS inventory and capture vaccine wastage correctly by calling 800-374-3958.

Vaccinate with Confidence

Below are updated resources aimed at building confidence in COVID-19 vaccines.

- How to Build COVID-19 Vaccine Confidence in the Workplace
- Key Things to Know about COVID-19 Vaccines
- Frequently Asked Questions about Vaccination
- Vaccine Recipient Education
- Vaccine Communication Toolkit for Medical Centers, Clinics, Pharmacies, and Clinicians
- **Ad Council:** COVID-19 Collaborative Education Toolkit (Healthcare Provider Resources)
- **HHS:** COVID-19 Public Education Campaign Resources
- **HHS:** Talking Points for Health Care Leaders to Encourage Vaccine Confidence

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COVID-19 Vaccine and Clinical Information

General information about COVID-19 vaccine products for clinicians and healthcare professionals can be found on the COVID-19 Vaccination webpage.

Clinical information including FAQs, Contraindications and Precautions as well as Administrative resources can be found for each vaccine on their own product webpage.

- Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine
- Moderna COVID-19 vaccine
- Janssen/J&J COVID-19 vaccine
- COVID-19 Vaccine Quick Reference Guide
- Interim Clinical Considerations Summary Document

V-Safe After Vaccination Health Checker

V-safe is a smartphone-based tool that uses text messaging and web surveys to provide personalized health check-ins after an individual receives a COVID-19 vaccination. V-safe web pages feature information on how to register and complete a v-safe health check-in (including step-by-instructions with images), troubleshooting, FAQs, and contact information for technical support. These web pages will be continuously updated with additional resources.

- V-safe information sheet and poster: Posted on the Vaccine webpage and available in 5 languages: English, Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, and Simplified Chinese
- V-safe after vaccination health checker website
- V-Safe Print Resources
- Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)