



Federal Retail Pharmacy Program Updates

COVID statement on ACIP booster recommendations

CDC Director Rochelle P. Walensky, M.D., M.P.H., endorsed the CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices' (ACIP) recommendation for a booster shot of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine in certain populations and also recommended a booster dose for those in high risk occupational and institutional settings. The Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) authorization and CDC's guidance for use are important steps forward as we work to stay ahead of the virus and keep Americans safe.

This updated interim guidance from CDC allows for millions of Americans who are at highest risk for COVID-19 to receive a Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 booster shot to help increase their protection.

CDC recommends:

- people 65 years and older and residents in long-term care settings should receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series,
- people aged 50–64 years with [underlying medical conditions](#) should receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series,
- people aged 18–49 years with [underlying medical conditions](#) may receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks, and
- people aged 18-64 years who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting may receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least 6 months after their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series, based on their individual benefits and risks.

Many of the people who are now eligible to receive a booster shot received their initial vaccine early in the vaccination program and will benefit from additional protection. With the Delta variant's dominance as the circulating strain and cases of COVID-19 increasing significantly across the United States, a booster shot will help strengthen protection against severe disease in those populations who are at high-risk for exposure to COVID-19 or the complications from severe disease.

CDC will continue to monitor the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines to ensure appropriate recommendations to keep all Americans safe. We will also evaluate with similar urgency available data in the coming weeks to swiftly make additional recommendations for other populations or people who got the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccines. **Click [here](#) for additional information, including talking points and FAQs.** We will provide more clinical guidance as we receive it.

Check Johnson & Johnson vaccine expiration dates

Please be advised that Johnson & Johnson/Janssen (J&J) COVID-19 vaccine lot 206A21A expired September 21, 2021. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has not extended the expiration for this lot. Do not administer this vaccine and please discard any remaining doses as medical waste. Open the vials and mark them as expired before discarding them. You should check the expiration date [HERE](#) before discarding the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

VaccineFinder required reporting reminder

The CDC has notified us that there are several hundred program participants who have not updated VaccineFinder recently. Remember that VaccineFinder inventory reporting is a CDC requirement for participation in the COVID-19 vaccine program. Reporting should be done under your FEDERAL login. You no longer need to report inventory on your VaccineFinder state login. Also, take time to make sure your VaccineFinder listing is accurate. Email vaccinefinder@castlighthhealth.com for assistance, or call 855-886-4317