



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

**This is an official
MS Health Alert Network (HAN) Alert**

MESSAGE ID: MSHAN-20210929-00543-ALT (Health Alert)
RECIPIENTS: All Physicians, Hospitals, ERs, ICPs, NPs, and
Healthcare Providers – Statewide
Wednesday, September 29, 2021
SUBJECT: Summary of MSDH Updated COVID-19 Vaccine
Recommendations

As always please feel free to reach out to the MSDH Office of Epidemiology at 601-576-7725 or the MSDH Office of Immunizations at 601-576-7751 with questions.

MSDH “Booster” Dose Recommendations: Who is eligible?

The following people are recommended to receive a Pfizer vaccine booster dose:

- Have been fully vaccinated with two shots of Pfizer, **and**
- Are at least six months after their last shot of Pfizer

AND, are in one of the following categories:

- People 65 years and older, OR
- Residents in long-term care facilities (LTCF), OR
- People aged 18 and older with underlying medical conditions ([see below](#)), OR
- Individuals aged 18 and older who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting ([see below](#)).

Underlying Medical Conditions to Consider for Booster Dose of Pfizer (determined by medical provider):

- Chronic kidney disease,
- Chronic lung diseases (COPD, asthma, etc),
- Dementia or other neurological conditions
- Diabetes (type 1 or 2),
- Down syndrome,
- Heart conditions (such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies),
- Hypertension
- Liver Disease
- Overweight (defined as a body mass index (BMI) > 25 kg/m² but < 30 kg/m²), obesity (BMI ≥30 kg/m² but < 40 kg/m²), or severe obesity (BMI of ≥40 kg/m²),
- Pregnancy,
- Sickle cell disease or thalassemia,
- Smoking (current or former),
- Stroke,

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- Substance abuse disorders,
- **Other medical conditions determined by the medical provider.**
**See CDC reference [Underlying Medical Conditions for Clinicians \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov)

Occupations and Institutional Settings to Consider for Booster Dose of Pfizer

- First responders (healthcare workers, firefighters, police, people who live or work in congregate care settings)
- Education staff (teachers, support staff, daycare workers)
- Food and agriculture workers
- Manufacturing workers
- Corrections workers
- U.S. Postal Service workers
- Public transit workers
- Grocery store workers
- **See CDC Reference for Occupations at increased risk at [Who Is Eligible for a COVID-19 Vaccine Booster Shot? | CDC](https://www.cdc.gov)**

MSDH Additional or “Third” Dose Recommendations: Who is Eligible?

Based on data that immunocompromised people may not respond to the initial 2 dose series, the following people are recommended to receive an additional or “**third**” dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine at least 28 days after the last dose (should receive dose of the same vaccine that was received initially)

- 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
- **Any other medical condition which, in the provider’s opinion, limits the immune response to the mRNA COVID-19 vaccine primary two-dose series.**

For full Updated Guidance for an Additional Dose or Third Dose of mRNA COVID-19 Vaccine for Immunocompromised Individuals, please see previous Health Alert Message dated August 16, 2021, at [15390.pdf \(ms.gov\)](https://www.ms.gov)

Regards,

Paul Byers, MD
State Epidemiologist



Alerting Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: Mississippi State Department of Health
Alerting Program: MS Health Alert Network (MS HAN)
Message Identifier: MSHAN-20210929-00543-ALT
Program (HAN) Type: Health Alert
Status (Type): Actual ()
Message Type: Alert
Reference: MSHAN-00543
Severity: Unknown
Acknowledgement: No
Sensitive: Not Sensitive
Message Expiration: Undetermined
Urgency: Undetermined
Delivery Time: 600 minutes

Definition of Alerting Vocabulary and Message Specification Settings

Originating Agency: A unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.

Alerting Program: The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.

Message Identifier: A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation (MSHAN-yyymmdd-hhmm-TTT (**ALT=Health Alert**, **ADV=Health Advisory**, **UPD=Health Update**, **MSG/INFO=Message/Info Service**)).

Program (HAN) Type: Categories of Health Alert Messages.

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Health Info Service: Provides Message / Notification of general public health information; unlikely to require immediate action.

Status (Type):

Actual:	Communication or alert refers to a live event
Exercise:	Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
Test:	Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded

Message Type:

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Alert: Indicates an original Alert
Update: Indicates prior alert has been Updated and/or superseded
Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

Reference: For a communication or alert with a Message Type of “Update” or “Cancel”, this attribute contains the unique Message Identifier of the original communication or alert being updated or cancelled. “n/a” = Not Applicable.

Severity:

Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property
Severe: Significant threat to life or property
Moderate: Possible threat to life or property
Minor: Minimal threat to life or property
Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

Acknowledgement: Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required (Yes or No).

Sensitive:

Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

Message Expiration: Undetermined.

Urgency: Undetermined. Responsive action should be taken immediately.

Delivery Time: Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert (15, 60, 1440, 4320 minutes (.25, 1, 24, 72 hours)).